

Special Convention Number

A. F. U. BULLETIN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION

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"It cannot be beyond the power of man so to use the vast resources of the world as to ensure the material progress of civilization. No diminution in those resources has taken place. On the contrary, discovery, invention, and organization have multiplied their possibilities to such an extent that abundance of production has itself created new problems."

HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

June 12th, 1933.



1944 Convention

The second Annual Convention of the A. F. U. was a splendid success from the point of view of the number of delegates in attendance, interest and enthusiasm displayed, and the general attitude towards the future policies of the Union. There were 419 delegates representing 203 locals and if every one of our 595 locals had sent the number of delegates they were entitled to, it would take the biggest hall in Edmonton to hold them. Splendid weather prevailed during the whole period for which we were very grateful as this enabled many delegates to attend who otherwise would have felt they could not leave home if severe winter weather prevailed. Every delegate was safely billeted and during the Convention a vote of hearty appreciation was accorded to the citizens of Edmonton for the splendid manner in which they opened their homes to the farmer delegates. Their action made a successful convention possible and once again we thank them.

It was found necessary to install a loud speaker in order to enable the chairman and speakers from the platform to be fully heard and after this was done the sound volume was fully ample especially when speaker Nestman was in action.

A large number of resolutions were on the order paper, and many more were presented while the convention was in progress. In order that equal opportunity might prevail, all resolutions submitted before December 31st, were printed and only board resolutions or those of special importance received later than that date, were considered. However, it is apparent that some method will have to be found for reducing or condensing the number brought before the convention and although this may prevent the subject matter of every resolution being considered, yet the delegates felt this to be necessary. They accordingly made arrangements for a committee to sit previous to the next convention and combine and consolidate them into a smaller number, that can be dealt with by a convention lasting about three days.

ADDRESSES OF WELCOME

President Jackson opened the Convention, and Mayor Fry gave the delegates a welcome in the name of the City of Edmonton. Hon. D. B. McMillan, Provincial Minister of Agriculture, extended greetings on behalf of the Province, and then the delegates approved of the appointment of H. Young as Chief Chairman and the follow-

ing slate to assist him in his duties: Messrs. Jackson, McGowan, Logan, Hawrelak, Nestman and Yusep. The principal committees were approved as recommended by the board; the resolutions committee have two men from the south added by the convention making five on this committee as follows: A. MacDonald, R. N. Russell, W. Landry, K. Long, and W. H. Childress.

The other committees approved of were:

Directors Report Committee — W. Yusep, G. Bevington, L. E. Pharis, Wm. Hawrelak, and C. O. McGowan.

Credential Committee — A. Anderson, H. E. Nichols, and N. Baron.

Order of Business Committee — W. G. Logan, J. Jackson, H. Young.

Press Committee — Wm. Hawrelak and Jas. Jackson.

Resolution Committee — A. MacDonald, R. N. Russell, W. Landry, K. Long, and W. H. Childress.

Mr. Pharis gave the report on behalf of the Board of Directors and his splendid effort was much appreciated.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

In presenting this report the members of the Board of Directors wish to express their appreciation for the assistance of the many A. F. U. members who have given so unstintingly of their time and energy in organizational work. For your untiring energy and devotion to our cause we offer our sincere thanks. We realize that the present man-power shortage and the restrictions on gasoline and tires have hampered all our efforts, but in spite of these handicaps, it gives us much pleasure to report the splendid advancement made by our Farm Organization during the past year.

ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP

During the year our paid-up membership has increased by 6,000 and the number of Locals has increased from 450 to 600. Congratulations are due to our most southerly and most recently organized District, Number 12, whose membership has increased five-fold. We take off our hats to Magrath Local No. 388 and its 300 active paid-up members. We believe this to be an all-time record for a Farmers' Local in the province of Alberta. This local has over 95% membership. We think if this is possible in one locality, it is possible in others. So we ask you, fellow members, to go out on your return and put on an in-

tensive drive for new members and renewals.

If, in the coming period of Reconstruction, we are to play a part comparable to our members as an industrial group, we must be organized solidly, that our weight and influence may be felt. To do this each individual member must assume his share of responsibility for the advancement of our Union. During the past year three Directors' meetings were held, one in February, one in June, and one just prior to this convention. All members were present at all three. Eleven meetings of the Executive were held.

As a Board we feel that we may be able to offer more assistance and support during the coming year than in the past, yet the ultimate success or failure of this Union depends upon the attitude and enthusiasm of its members. "A chain is as strong as its weakest link." So once again we thank you for your splendid efforts during the past. May they be increased ten-fold.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Financial Statement shows an excess of revenue over expenditure for the year of \$4,452.07. This includes a trust fund of \$536.16, leaving a cash surplus of \$3,935.91. The Financial Committee consists of William Hawrelak and W. G. Logan.

Increased revenue means increased service to our members. In your discussion of the financial report we hope you will be perfectly frank in expressing your approval or disapproval of our disbursements of the past year. Remember the sole function of your board is to serve you.

BROADCASTING AND PUBLICITY

The Publicity Committee consists of James Jackson, C. O. McGowan, Mrs. J. Geddes, and H. E. Nichols. For publicity purposes we have made use of the following mediums: The Radio; Our official publication, The Bulletin; circular letters from Head Office. Sixteen addresses by James Jackson, H. E. Nichols and Mrs. J. Geddes have been broadcast over each of the following stations: CFCN, Calgary; CFRN, Edmonton; and CFGP, Grande Prairie, at a cost of \$1,284.99. As to the value and possibilities of these broadcasts we should like an expression of opinion from the floor of this Convention.

Our A. F. U. Bulletin, under the capable direction of our Secretary, H. E. Nichols, has been used to keep our members informed about the activities of the Local, District and Central Bodies. To him we owe deep appreciation for his untiring efforts.

Circular letters have been used efficiently by our secretary in conveying information, resolutions and proposed action to members, Locals, Governments, other Farm Bodies and the Press.

To the press, for the just and impartial chronicle of the activities and efforts of our Organization toward the establishment of an economic equality for the agricultural group, we wish to extend our sincere thanks.

REPRESENTATION AND OTHER BODIES

Our President, James Jackson, represents our Union, on the provincial boards of the Federation of Agriculture and The Agricultural Reconstruction Committee. The Committee on Amalgamation is composed of C. O. McGowan, William Hawrelak, H. Young and Mrs. J. Geddes.

H. E. Nichols represents us on the Consumers' League, and George Bevington, Director of District No. 5, broadcasts for the Consumers' League.

C. O. McGowan was a fraternal delegate to the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan section, in November, and William Hawrelak carried our greetings to the U. F. A. Convention in Calgary last week.

Mrs. J. Geddes attended the National Film Conference at Saskatoon.

RECONSTRUCTION

The committee on post-war reconstruction consists of: Our executive body together with H. E. Nichols and G. Bevington and is under the chairmanship of H. Young.

Studies have been made in the following fields: Education; Crop Insurance; Parity prices; Co-operative farming; Soil Conservation; Reforestation; Rural Electrification; Central Heating, and Rural Sanitation; Security of Tenure.

Reports of the above committee will be submitted to the convention.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED ON BY CENTRAL OFFICE

At all times members of the personnel at Head Office are alert for any opportunity to safeguard and improve the position of the Agricultural Group. They are informed on developments of interest to all farmers. Numerous telegrams, protests, resolutions and suggestions have been made to the Right Honorable MacKenzie King, the Minister of Agriculture, and Members of Parliament.

Of these we mention but a few: A protest was made that the five cent bonus on coarse grains exported to the United States was not applied to grain shipped previous to April 1st.

A wire was sent to G. A. McIvor asking that \$1.25 per bushel be paid to all farmers who delivered grain prior to the closing of Stock Exchange. Some adjustment was made. A protest was entered regarding the discrimination made

against growers of coarse grain fed to their own livestock. Protest was made to our Agriculture Minister against the \$3.00 deduction on slightly overweight hogs and also against the fluctuating prices on hogs paid by packers. Mr. Gardiner replied by ordering the revision of the memorandum entitled "Why Discount Heavy Hog Carcasses" along the lines suggested by our secretary, H. E. Nichols.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion your Board expresses its desire and willingness to co-operate with all peace loving people of the world in an effort to bring this devastating conflict to a victorious conclusion. We promise to give our utmost efforts to the winning of a just and lasting peace and thus to help make a reality the visions and hopes given us by the world's great statesman in their Atlantic Charter.

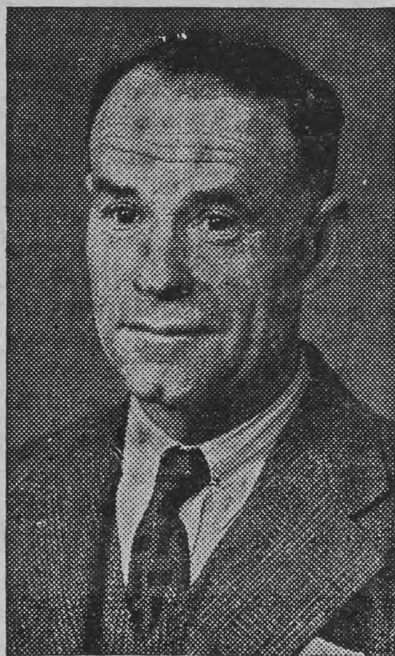
To all whose loved ones "have given the last full measure of devotion", who died that we might live in freedom and liberty, we wish to express our sincere condolence.

"May we, with humble sacred pride
Live for the cause in which they died."

The Secretary read the financial statement and presumably because it made a very satisfactory showing, very few questions were asked.

However, I hope the time never comes when we consider dollars are more valuable than members. It is a splendid thing to have a good balance sheet and a much more splendid thing to have a growing virile organization; whose funds are expended in the effort to bring about conditions which will enable us to make farming a successful occupation and thus provide a firm foundation for our whole economic set-up.

Questions on the financial statement were deferred until after the Presidents speech which was given right after dinner.

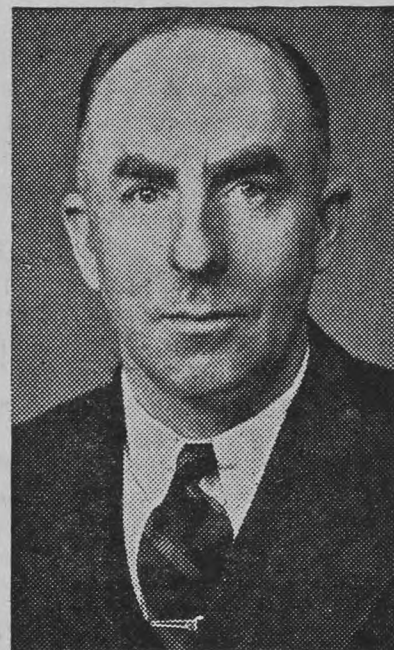


Secretary H. E. Nichols

President's Speech

Mr. Chairman, Fellow Farmers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are meeting today under most trying circumstances having entered on the 5th year of the most destructive war in world history. Many homes are already saddened by the loss of loved ones, and to all these, we take this opportunity of extending our deepest sympathy, trusting that they will be comforted by the thought that this time they shall not have died in vain. For those of us who are spared are determined that we will not rest until a living, vital democracy has been established. The right to build this in our own way is what we consider we are fighting for.



President Jas. Jackson

Millions of men and women from all walks of life, from almost every country in the world are in uniform and serving, we are convinced that the zero hour for the invasion of Europe is close at hand and we must steel ourselves for whatever shocks this may result in. President Roosevelt warned us last week that our war efforts must not be relaxed and to quote his own words, "The last miles of a journey are always the hardest."

We, as farmers, are determined to organize and build a Union, so that their offer of supreme sacrifice may not be in vain.

It was just over three years ago that the organization which we represent here to-day, but which at that time was known under the name of the United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section), held its first Convention in this city. At that time our membership was less than 4,000. Not very strong numerically it is true but what we lacked in numbers we made up in enthusiasm and determination. We were convinced that we were in the right. We are out to build a Farmers' Union which would include in its ranks farmers of every shade of political opinion, every religion and every nationality, banded together to secure for ourselves certain very definite objectives amongst them being.

1. To bring economic security to agriculture and all persons engaged therein,

To bring to the primary producers such price for their produce as will ensure to them a decent standard of living for themselves and their families,

To achieve parity of prices between primary products and consumer goods,

To study economic and social questions bearing on the agricultural communities,

To promote and secure legislation for achieving the objects of Society,

To affiliate with any organizations in Canada having similar objectives,

To publish and distribute papers, newspapers, bulletins and periodicals, which the association may consider to be necessary to further the general objectives of the association, and to do all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the attaining of all the above objectives or anyone of them.

Two years ago when we met in this hall, our membership had grown to just over 5,000, the growth had been slow but sure. We were handicapped by lack of finance and also we were held back by an attitude of antagonism which we encountered in some sectors. Many rumours far from complimentary to us in connection with ourselves and our organization. I might also add that the outbreak of war deprived us of many of our youngest and more enthusiastic workers.

It was at this time that we made (as many of you will remember) an all-out effort to amalgamate with the United Farmers of Alberta, and although we were successful in getting our two delegate bodies together in the Memorial Hall, our efforts to bring about a fusion of the two were abortive. That was when we changed our name, United Farmers of Canada, (Alberta Section), and took the name Alberta Farmers' Union in accordance with the decision of the joint Convention. Much disappointment was evinced by our delegates when word was received from the United Farmers of Alberta delegates that on returning to their own Convention Hall after the joint meeting they decided that they could not carry out the provisions, which earlier they had helped formulate; but they invited us to come over and join with them under their name, United Farmers of Alberta. Our delegates, however, decided that they could not accept this invitation as it was amalgamation we sought and **not** absorption. May I digress for just a moment at this point to make it clear that efforts to amalgamate have been carried on to date and will be mentioned in the Directors' Report.

I believe you will agree with me when I say that our stand at that time has been fully justified by the amazing growth of our membership from just over 5,000 two years ago, to over 17,-

000 to-day, over 2,000 having come into our office since December 31st. Where two years ago the Province was only partly organized to-day we have elected directors working each in the twelve Districts into which the province is divided, and last but not least, the B. C. Block of the Peace River country is organized and a Director for that sector has been added to our Board. This growth was made possible by the hard work and unselfish efforts on the part of many of our members, who in order to build a Union travelled long distances at great inconvenience to themselves and their families, organizing locals and taking part in other work incidental to the building of this aggressive virile organization.

Your Executive and Board of Directors have also made a valuable contribution by their untiring efforts, although we did not see eye to eye on all points, yet the very greatest degree of solidarity was reached and a real spirit of comradeship has existed at all times, which is most inspiring to your President.

At this time I wish to make it very clear that a great deal of credit is due to our Secretary, Mr. Nichols, who has given his time and energy in a most unselfish manner. While not actually farming at the moment Mr. Nichols has been so recently engaged in that industry that he still retains the farmers viewpoint, making him practically invaluable to our organization in preparing and presenting our views on farm problems. The young ladies on our staff also are deserving of the highest praise for the highly efficient manner in which they have carried out their duties and for the loyal and faithful service which they have rendered throughout the year. I might point out that during the past year many of our members have been lost to us temporarily at least, through joining the colors and being called up under mobilization regulations. Were it not for this fact and the drastic shortage of labour, which exists on our farms, also gas and tire rationing preventing many good workers actively helping us, I have no doubt, whatever, but that our membership would be at least double what it is to-day. We feel that the time is ripe for a real organization campaign, for farmers everywhere are eager to join our Union, giving evidence of their realization of the benefits of a Union, and requests for speakers continue to pour into our office.

Our growth during the past two years would seem to indicate that the strength and consequent efficiency of farm organizations is greatest during the times of stress. Certainly, in Canada farmers have been more closely drawn together, their viewpoints more fully consolidated and their voice more widely heard, when they have been assailed, as in recent years by vexing economic and organizational problems.

Since our last Convention a number of major farm problems have been greatly accentuated. Chiefly among these being manpower, debt and commodity prices. This will in part explain the growth of our Union and also the growth of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture with whom we are affiliated. The Alberta Federation of Agriculture being an integral part of the Canadian Federation. We are thus able to have all matters of immediate importance taken up with the proper authorities through the latter's permanent office in Ottawa.

Your representatives have been active during the past year in every problem concerning agriculture. Amongst others the following were taken up and pressed to the limit. Hog and grain prices, hog grading, manpower, machinery and repair parts, rationing jams, syrup and other products, debt adjustment and Security of Tenure. I might say at this point that the hog situation has been a live subject ever since the outbreak of war, but has been greatly accentuated during the past year. As far back as April 22nd last, the matter of an increase of price compensating the farmer for the increased cost of production was taken up and pressed with the utmost vigor. At this time we also warned of the need for the Selective Service Officials to take steps necessary to provide adequate labour for the packing industry to take care of the heavy flow of stock which we knew would be coming forward this last fall.

However, our demands for price advances were not given consideration until a very short time ago, too late in fact to prevent many farmers from liquidating large number of good breeding stock, which should have been in many cases retained on farms.

The increases which took effect yesterday, namely \$3.00 bonus on grade A and \$2.00 on B1, will, according to some estimates, mean an increase of four million dollars in the income of Alberta farmers in the coming year. This is a sizable amount in any man's language; but does this give a true picture? According to figures compiled by the University of Alberta, showing the net returns per hog since 1938, the returns for 1943 were the lowest and the bonuses which came into effect yesterday will only put the net return per hog back to about the 1942 level.

We are glad to note a recent press announcement to the effect that a new system of hog grading is being worked out and we sincerely hope that it will prove to be more equitable than the old system which penalized a hog which was one pound over-weight by a deduction of \$3.00. This was entirely unfair, and we have fought against it ever since it came into effect, and you can judge for yourself whether we have secured any results or not. Wheat is up to \$1.25 from 90c last year and 70c two years ago or an advance since 1942 of 55c per bushel.

This past year we got help from the forces for harvest and threshing, which resulted in the greater portion of the grain being harvested. Had such help been forthcoming in the 1942 season, as we had advocated, it would have meant a saving of many thousands of bushels of grain, and also our 1943 crop would have been seeded in time to escape the severe frost damage which occurred in many districts owing to the seeding being held up last spring by the farmers having to take time out to finish threshing the 1942 crop.

Your organization took an active part in the Committees on debt called by the Provincial Government and which culminated in the Saskatoon conference, where agreement was reached by representatives of the three Prairie Provinces, and a draft bill was drawn up and presented at Ottawa by a Committee, which pressed for its enactment. You will, of course, remember what happened. How in the dying hours of the session the Dominion Government introduced and rushed through a bill, which was not at all in accord with the terms of the draft bill presented to them by our representatives. It is very apparent that the creditor interests have far more influence with the Dominion Government than have the chosen representatives of the people of the three Prairie Provinces.

The members of your Executive have been represented at the meetings of the Consultative Committee of the Provincial Government on Agricultural services, called from time to time, to discuss the various phases of agriculture. We are convinced that much good has resulted in the past and have every hope for still greater benefits from such consultations in the future.

In our communications with the various authorities concerned, we have been out-spoken and frank at all times, so out-spoken in fact that I personally have been severely taken to task by some members of our organization for being too harsh in my statements over the air concerning the Honourable J. G. Gardiner. Let me state right here that I never at any time attacked Mr. Gardiner, but I most certainly did attack certain of the policies which Mr. Gardiner and others endeavoured to apply to agriculture and for this we make no apologies. In fact Mr. Gardiner, himself, I believe will admit that we have never criticized without being at the same time constructive. In proof of this statement let me quote from a letter of May 25th which we received from Mr. Gardiner. I quote in part — I may say that I find it very gratifying to have a representative of a farmers' organization such as yours, taking such an intelligent interest in the problems of the hog and bacon industry, and we feel that much good can be accomplished by conveying information to producers through the medium of such organization — end of quotation.

While we have never attacked Mr. Gardiner

personally, we have as I said before, attacked the policies of his Department, and will continue to attack any and all policies which do not recognize the principle of parity for agriculture nor give us fair representation on all boards dealing with farm problems.

Criticism of a constructive nature is not only necessary in a democracy, but it is really essential. This has been proven in Britain, where since the outbreak of war political figures which are held by some people in Canada to be sacrosanct are given sound daily drubbings in the British press, and there is to be noted in this connection that as the freedom and vigor of criticism has grown in the old country the vigor and intelligence of the war effort has increased correspondingly. This same principle applies to our own organization, and we invite criticism at all times, but be sure your criticism is of the constructive type rather than destructive.

Let me touch for a moment or two on the subject of price control. It has been implied many times that farmers are opposed to price control. This is entirely false. We realize as well as anybody else that certain controls must be exercised in times of war. But what we certainly are opposed to, and we make no apologies for our opposition, is the unfair and unjust application of the price controls. They were placed on many of our products while we were still selling below production costs. Most other products were controlled at profitable levels, revision upwards was allowed while the prices of farm products were revised in that direction only when they were in short supply or when sufficient organized pressure was applied.

We are not opposed to rationing as has been suggested by some, we recognize that this is the only fair way in which commodities which are in short supply can be divided so that each can get their fair share. Take for instance jams, syrup, marmalade, etc. Before we succeeded in having these commodities rationed there were many people who had gone for months without getting any of them. They were not on exhibit in the stores. When rationed however, every store soon had some on their shelves and everybody got an equitable share.

Our Union is very definitely in favour of the Co-operative way of doing business, and we avail ourselves of every opportunity to support and boost all the co-ops, whether producer or consumer. Co-operation may not be the answer to all the problems of the Western Farmer, but it has been of considerable benefit in the past and with sound leadership and loyal support should be even more so in the future. There is no sounder foundation on which to build a New Order.

The growth of Co-ops. in the past year is most gratifying, particularly the Alberta Live-

stock Co-op. and the Alberta Poultry Marketers Limited. The A.L.C. started just over two years ago and is now handling more than one-third of the total Alberta hog kill. This organization is putting up a gallant fight for the hog producers of this province. The Alberta Poultry Marketers have also made a very rapid growth and are doing a splendid job for the poultry producers. We appeal to our members to take an active interest in all true co-operative enterprises, both producer and consumer.

While millions of dollars have been returned to CO-OP patrons as dividends or refunds of excess earnings through the years, thereby giving our people a somewhat higher standard of living, this must not be looked on as the only benefits derived, as I am convinced that greater benefits accrued through the correction of abuses which existed in the various lines before the co-ops were established.

We are convinced that very determined efforts are being put forth to discredit and defeat all Co-operative effort. Therefore, we have a duty to ourselves and to future generations to support every true co-op enterprise and induce our friends and neighbours to do the same, and be ready to fight against any and all moves whether legislative or otherwise which may be made against our institutions.

In looking into the future we are of the opinion that two qualities are essential "Vision and Courage." We agree with Lord De La Warr who when speaking in Calgary last week, said that agriculture cannot be allowed to become a "side show" in the Post War World.

Lord Woolton, Britain's late Food Minister, now Britain's Minister of Reconstruction, said some months ago that "in the Reconstruction Period agriculture must be regarded as a way of life and not just a food producing industry."

It is certain that our people are not going to be satisfied with allowing the food supply of the Dominion to be jeopardized by returning, when this war is over, to the calamitous conditions which existed through the 1930's. Conditions of unmarketable surpluses, starving millions, falling agricultural prices, leading to unemployment and economic stagnation, which in turn leads to accumulation of debt, insecurity, insanity and suicides and the demoralization of our Agricultural Industry.

If our Dominion is to maintain any degree of prosperity in the Post War World, it must be founded on a prosperous agriculture, whose fair share in the National Revenue of our society must be recognized.

In World War No. 1, we defeated our enemies on the battle fronts, but we allowed ourselves to be defeated on the home front during the twenty years following. We were persuaded that we

were poor and we allowed ourselves to be put into the straight jacket of the financier, or in other words instead of measuring our wealth by our natural resources and our productive capacity, we were forced to adjust our economy to the amount of effective demand available after we had serviced our debt load.

We believe that a better world will arise out of the ashes of the world period which terminated with the outbreak of war, and in order that we may properly take our share in guiding the building of this better world, your Reconstruction Committee has been at work on the many phases of reconstruction which affect agriculture. We have been, however very much handicapped (being farmers) by the lack of sufficient time to carry on the research work necessary to bring in a sufficiently comprehensive report. No Reconstruction Programme will be effective without the following basic requirements:

- (a) Security of tenure in our homes.
- (b) Stabilization of farm income by the establishment of floor prices for definite periods.
- (c) Farmer representatives must be given place on all boards dealing with all agricultural problems. In proportion to the number of people employed in the industry and their importance to society.

In Union there is strength and as strength grows our responsibility increases. As citizens of this great Dominion who have proven beyond a doubt our super ability to produce food in abundance, as our contribution in this titanic struggle for survival, we must now accept this responsibility in the reconstruction of society and accept this challenge by strengthening ourselves morally and numerically, so that agriculture may get recognition in the reconstruction period in proportion to our contribution to society.

The question now arises as to what kind of a new order we are going to have (much has been said and written about it). I can tell you right here and now. It will be what we make it. We can't let George do it this time. It is our job, yours and mine, to plan well and act on the basis of plan. Remember, if we fail, we are failing our Country, our fighting men on the battle fronts and our children at home who are depending on us. We are failing their future and our hope for the future. This time we must not fail. We will not fail to do our share in building this better world.

After the President's speech, the secretary's financial report was adopted. Then the delegates swung into action on the resolutions.

The first one dealt with was No. 82 on the order paper and dealt with coupon rationing of all sweets, jams, honey, etc., and was finally sent

back for redrafting. No. 87 on the same subject met with the same fate.

No. 125 requested the Wartime Prices and Trade Board see that only top quality goods demand top prices. Carried unanimously.

No. 70 demanded that farmers' cars needing tires receive them the same as trucks do.

No. 40 asked for a travelling nurse to check up on health of rural children. Carried.

No 19 asking for cleaning facilities at the elevators, was sent back for redrafting and carried.

The next resolution dealt with the veterans of the First Great War as follows:

— RESOLUTION —

RESOLVED that:

WHEREAS upwards of 6,000 Soldier Settlers, veterans of the last Great War, are petitioning the Dominion Government to give them a clear title to lands held by them under the jurisdiction of the Soldier Settlement Board of Canada;

AND WHEREAS these same 6,000 settlers are all that are left of an original 24,000 soldier settlers, most of whom have, by coercion, been forced to give the Government quit claims to their land;

THEREFORE, we petition the Alberta Provincial Government to intercede with the said Dominion Government, that they give these veteran settlers release from their indebtedness, and that this same privilege be given to their widows or children whether living on said lands or otherwise. In those cases where lands have changed hands restitution shall be made based on the actual value of each and every one of these properties. It is to be understood that this resolution shall only apply to **bona fide War Veteran Soldier Settlers** and their widows or children and under no circumstances shall apply to persons who may have purchased what has been legally known as Soldier Settlement Board lands. All of the above to be made retroactive to September 3rd 1939.

This was carried unanimously and the Convention decided that the petition accompanying the resolution should be sent out to every A.F.U. local. The Petition is as follows:

— PETITION —

To the Government and Members of Parliament of Canada.

We, the undersigned citizens of Canada, being aroused by the sad plight of many of our country's ex-service men and the failure of the

Soldier Settlement Scheme to provide the security of a home for the majority of those operating farms under its provisions, after many years of struggle and hardship by those who served our country well in its hour of need and to which our Government has been unable to bring the required measures of relief to provide the security of a home;

THEREFORE:

1. We hereby petition the Dominion Government that Title Deeds to all lands now held by Soldier Settlers under contract with the Board in any way be issued by the Director of Soldier Settlement and that the Soldier Settlement Board be then abolished forever;

2. That no Land Settlement Scheme be undertaken by the Government for those now serving in our Armed Forces but, instead, a cash bonus be paid to all members of the Armed Forces who serve outside of Canada of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) for the first year, and Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for each additional month of service. This amount to be paid to all members of the Army, Navy and Air Force, irrespective of rank.

3. That the Government devote its full energies towards bringing about the Economic and Social Reforms so urgently needed so that our men and women returning from Active Service may be able to adjust themselves to the pursuits of peace in harmony with all other citizens of this great new country.

4. We further believe that the future well being of our country depends upon our Government giving favourable consideration to these requests, so as Loyal British Subjects we shall never cease to pray.

RECONSTRUCTION REPORT

This was dealt with section by section and some discussion took pace on each section. Most of the sections passed without any alteration; but the one dealing with Farm Sanitation was criticised as asking the Government for too much and Mr. Arly said that if we get Parity Prices we could finance our own home improvements.

The section dealing with co-operative farming aroused considerable discussion and this was amended to "community farms of various sizes to see which is the most suitable size" be inserted, before it was carried.

The complete report was then adopted.

The next resolution was one dealing with reconstruction and was introduced as a Board resolution as follows:—

WHEREAS we believe that the interests of agriculture can be greatly served by proper edu-

cation of the boys and girls of our rural districts in better methods of raising livestock and canning and preserving food, as well as promoting greater pride in the work of agriculture, we move that the Alberta Farmers' Union appoint a committee to study the possibilities of establishing a service for the young people of our rural areas similar to that of the 4-H clubs of the United States, and that if this committee finds such a service to be possible, the Alberta Farmer' Union urge the support of the government in financing such a project.

SPRING COULEE (Resolution No. 50).

This was carried and the Convention adjourned for supper.

JANUARY 25th. — EVENING SESSION

Address by Mr. Ross

Fraternal Delegate from the Armed Forces Federation

Mr. Ross brought fraternal greetings from the Armed Forces Federation of which he is the Secretary. This organization was formed by members of the armed forces for the specific purpose of protecting the rights of returned men when they come back and during the post-war period.

It will be a Union to which they can belong immediately on their return.

All dependents and relatives of men serving in the Armed Forces are eligible for membership as well as men of the Merchant Marine and we strongly urge all farmers who have sons or daughters serving to become members. The fee is a merely nominal one of 25 cents and the secretary is Mr. J. Ross, 8 McDougall Court, Edmonton. Any member who wishes to register an absent soldier relative as a member may do so.

MR. ROSS: Mr. Chairman, members of the executive, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to come before this great gathering of farmers tonight, and to speak not alone to the representatives of the farmers of our country, but also to the farm women who have lent not only their bodies but their very souls to the development of this land of ours and have helped to raise it from the position of the pioneering West to the proud position it occupies today. In connection with that I have from time to time as occasion suggested and as my own predilections directed me, studied such information as I could obtain from time to time from other bodies and books upon a question which in my opinion goes to the very foundation of farming, of agricultural industry and of industries in the prairie west; and that is the subject of freight rates.

Before I enter upon my subject I have a message to give you. I have been directed by my own association, the Armed Forces Federation, which is a political, but absolutely nonpartisan body, whose members are drawn from all the military organizations and ladies' auxiliaries of those forces, to convey their expressions of goodwill, and to tell you the battle we are engaged in connection with the Armed Forces work is the battle you are engaged in as fathers, mothers, sons, brothers, husbands and sweethearts of those fighting to preserve our freedom. On their behalf as well as my own I beg you accept our most sincere fraternal greetings.

Having said so much, I will try if I can to make interesting what at the outset might appear to be a somewhat dry subject and although it is dry, although its bones are dry it will be for you to clothe it with the flesh and blood and living body and bring the transportation both rail and road and water of our country into greater conformity with the needs not only of the time but of our generation.

Before I go into the question of freight rates I want to sketch one of the fundamental causes which has given rise to the problems with which we are confronted. In the older days the prairies were known as Ruperts Land, and this was taken over by the Hudson's Bay Company. The Fathers of Confederation and John A. Macdonald entered upon a great railway building program of the 60's and 70's which finally laid a ribbon of steel across our prairies and the mountains to the west.

ALBERTA'S CONTRIBUTION

The Welfare of each Canadian province is the welfare of the whole. The best service we Albertans can make to Canada is to build a strong Alberta.

In Times past the Dominion granted to the Railways a total of thirty-two million acres in the prairie provinces. The great bulk was given as an inducement for the construction of the Transcontinental C.P.R. Of the total mileage required much more was built in Eastern Canada and British Columbia than in the three prairie Provinces. While the benefit derived from construction was of National importance, three provinces provided the entire Land subsidies. Of the above lands over thirteen million acres was within Alberta and they were specially selected out of larger areas temporarily reserved. With the alienation of Alberta territory Minerals as well as surface rights were included. Those minerals are of vast value. In addition the railway lands were free of taxation by province or Municipality for 20 years, while other taxation limitations brought further financial benefit to the transportation system.

I mention this now to emphasize the undoubted right of Alberta to equitable Freight rates. By this I mean rates absolutely based on the Montreal-Vancouver schedules, ton for ton and mile for mile. This can only be done by the Parliament of Canada. The board of transport commissioners have no authority to burden the revenues of Canada with any deficit on this account. This entire matter is one of National policy. The H.B. Company lands reserved comprise one twentieth of every township south of the North Saskatchewan River.

It was much easier to build railways across the prairies than across the mountains of Western Ontario and through the Rockies. In consequence of the proceeds of the 32 million acres alienated by the federal administration and earmarked for the purpose of building railways a much larger portion of that was diverted to the building of railways through the mountains of Ontario and British Columbia. It was much harder to construct roads over the mountains than over the flat prairies.

That entire proposition was national policy. By reason of it, B. C. entered confederation, and our Dominion has attained its proud position of pre-eminence which it occupies today.

NATIONAL POLICY

The economic strength of Canada is indissolubly bound up with our national unity. These in turn require and demand the maintenance of efficient and equitable road and rail transportation and proper facilities therefore. That our country requires to be served by the establishment of AN INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM which will permit the importation and exportation of goods, materials and equipment between tidewater and distributor and consumer with speed, efficiency and economy.

That as a co-relative of the foregoing the national distribution of power by the establishment of hydro-dams and stations in all provinces, or alternatively by scientific use and distribution of energy derived from available fuels, is a national requisite.

OUR PEOPLE ASK

1. That all parts of Canada be served by adequate power, transportation and communication facilities, and that whether road or rail or power distribution.

2. That the entire system of costs, charges and freights be recast and efficiently revised, whereby and within Canada, the benefits of same, may be equitably distributed for the benefit of all the people.

3. That the National Government be charged with securing, under a National EQUALITY

guarantee, efficient international distribution of all Canadian exports.

It is true that the administration of the railway rates is today under the guidance of what is called the Transport Commission, but it is for me to tell you, as many others have said before, that the Transport Commission, while it has operated in a different day and generation with considerable success, that its powers today should be widely extended to meet the situation as it now exists.

NOTES ON FREIGHTS

LOADINGS. — **FREIGHTS** are subdivided into a number of separate classes. We have carload lots, less than carload (L.C.L.) and competitive freights. The foregoing is again subdivided and applied by classifications of the freights shipped. These are known as Class Rates.

Generally speaking the **COMPETITIVE FREIGHT RATES** only exist where there is competitive water transportation.

BASIC FREIGHT RATES SCHEDULES have four subdivisions.

1. **EASTERN**; 2. **SUDBURY FORT WILLIAM**; 3. **THE PRAIRIES**; 4. **PACIFIC**.

Under the Eastern schedule many commodities move over large areas at rates below the scheduled base, because of water competition and competing U.S.A. Railroads. In addition the result of the Federal Commission known as the **DUNCAN REPORT**, has given them further substantial reduction below the basic rate.

PACIFIC BASE. Many large reductions have been put in force on this route because of Panama Canal competition and a special B. C. Reduction in the basic Pacific schedule.

THE PRAIRIES do not enjoy rates based on competitive water competition.

SPOKANE RATE CASE PRINCIPLE. Broadly speaking this debarred railways from charging more for a shorter haul to or from an interior point, than for a longer haul over the same line in the same direction to or from a coastal point.

It is true that this decision was modified later, but the principle involved is still reflected in the rates charged to and from coastal points and those to and from interior points.

If any approximation of this rule was in force in Canada, the effect on Alberta's freight structure and by reason of this on its **FINANCIAL** position, would be extraordinary.

In addition Spokane and other interior centres enjoy "Unloading in Transit Privileges" under which at nominal cost portions of a carload

shipment to a Pacific Coastal Port may be unloaded at such interior point and the balance of the car proceed to such Pacific Coastal Point.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVE RAPS FREIGHT RATES

If regulations were in effect in Canada such as Spokane, Wash., enjoys by ruling of the interstate commerce commission similar to Canada's railway commission, Albertans would pay approximately \$1.00 less on every spool of barbed wire and three cents less on every tin of tomatoes than they do now, Frank Pepper, second vice-president of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, declared here Monday night, 17th Nov. 1938. He was addressing the Rotary Club on "Farmers' Guest Night," at the Alice hotel, Camrose.

Mr. Pepper, who orally submitted the Chamber of Commerce's argument for more equitable freight rates before the Rowell Commission, pointed out that Alberta stands at the apex of Canada's freight rate structure.

"Basic freight rates from Eastern Canada to Edmonton are higher per ton mile than within eastern Canada or from eastern Canada to Vancouver," he said. He illustrated by quoting rates: from Toronto to Halifax, 2.106 cents per ton mile; Montreal to Winnipeg, 3.939; Montreal to Vancouver, 3.831; Montreal to Edmonton, 4.201.

Standard freight mileage rate is \$1.02 in the west and 83 cents in the east; distributing rates are 89 cents in the west and only 68 cents in the east, a reduction of 18% for the east and only 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ % for the west from standard, he stated.

"From Montreal to Port Arthur where there is water competition, rail rate per ton mile is 2.83 cents; but from Port Arthur to Edmonton where there is no water competition, the rate is 5.10," he said.

Canada lacks regulations as for instance in Spokane where the interstate commerce commission has ruled freight rates at intermediate points must not be higher than the through rate to the Coast and railways must not charge more for a short distance than for a long haul," Mr. Pepper declared.

From the foregoing talk I quote:-

CARLOAD RATES from Eastern Canada to Edmonton and Vancouver respectively coupled with L.C.L. rates out of these two points enable Vancouver to haul certain goods from Eastern Canada to Vancouver via Edmonton and reship them back to Edmonton at the same or less cost, than direct cost of shipping from Eastern Canada to Edmonton.

INSTANCE COAL SHIPPING: Canada purchases from the U. S. A. approximately 50 million dollars of coal per year and has done so for a decade and over). This is equivalent to ten

million work days each year at \$5.00 per day, or enough to give employment to 40,000 unemployed men for eight months each year. Mark well that the bulk of this would be in colder periods of our seasons. During the period of Dominion relief to the provinces during the Hungry Thirties of the last decade the Dominion issued to all the Prairie Provinces by way of various grants and doles, somewhere about the same figure on unemployment account.

No one can say that the Hon. Charles A. Dunning, late Liberal Minister of Finance, was a slap-dash visionary. Speaking in the House of Commons in March 1938, he drew attention to the speed of money circulation in 1936. He stated on his responsibility as Guardian of the national purse that money circulated 21 times and bank deposits 18 times during the course of that year.

Is it wrong to apply conclusions therefrom to the loss occasioned our country by the failure to use its coal deposits to the limit?

What is true of coal is true on a comparative scale of lumber and of minerals, and if it is true of them, what of AGRICULTURE, on whose foundational security and under God, the peace happiness and prosperity of all our people must ultimately depend?

What of their imports and of their exports? Let us examine them.

ALBERTA IS AT THE APEX

Flannelette blankets—4th class cotton goods. Eastern Canada to Vancouver at \$1.75 per cwt., but unloaded at Edmonton \$4.53½ per cwt. (2½ times as high). Hardware and many grocery and canned goods from Montreal to Edmonton move at rates 2½ times as high as the Vancouver rate. Barbed wire between same points at an increased rate of 164%; galvanized or sheet steel, 160%; lard and cooking oil, 98%; lead white or lead dry, 164.5%; nails, 32%; paint and varnish 58%; sewing machines, 41%; shoes, 51%; bolts, nuts and washers, 98%; twine under ⅛ inch, 79%; window glass, 98%; and wire fencing 58%. Agricultural implements move to the Coast at \$1.25 to \$1.50 while the corresponding rates to Edmonton are \$1.79 to \$1.98.

Live cattle as contrasted with processed meats get a preferred rate of 68%; 400 boxes of Alberta butter from Edmonton to Toronto cost \$764.82, but Ontario condensed milk from Aylmer to Edmonton, a slightly longer distance, costs \$467.46. The export rate on grain from West Ontario to St. John is lower per ton mile than the export rate to Fort William from distant prairie points. The Freight Rate Structure of Ontario and Quebec is on much lower level than on the Prairies or on shipments from Central Canada to the Prairies.

SCRAP METAL RATES — PRE-WAR AND NOW !!

Bonds of Transport Commission artificial.

Transportation is the basis of our national economy.

ALBERTA SALES are minus the costs of transportation.

ALBERTA PURCHASES are plus transportation costs and the long haul differential.

Whether we deal with beer or barley, poultry or pork, coal or oil or any of our native products of forest, farm or inland water, we face the burden of freights. This is not now a regional question alone. Its vital importance to our nation transcends any limits of space or local patriotisms. Upon its solution depends the future of Canada and the economic security of our people. The time has arrived when we cannot any longer endure this canker at the heart of our nations' prosperity. Upon its solution entirely depends the economic progress of our West and we have learned that no economic effort of our people is free from its unnatural thralldom. It levies its tribute on our forests, lakes and fields to the prejudice of all our peace and the economic prosperity of our land and its people.

There is no sense in such a rate structure, and yet the peculiar thing is this, that so far as my reading has brought me, I cannot stand up here tonight and say that some man or some body of men have actually set themselves to devise new rates and improvements for the prairie provinces. They have grown up over the last 45 years. They grew up when we had only 70,000 people in the whole province of Alberta and today we have nearly one million. The time is ripe and over-ripe for us to insist that not alone our provincial governments take it up but that we make such representations to the federal government of our country in such terms that those representations cannot be ignored, and that we are entitled to relief.

WESTERN DISCONTENT

I was given some interesting information during the week on the cost of transport for chocolates and other materials of that kind. As I have not yet verified the items, I do not care to include them in this submission. It is quite true that freight rates are based on cost but that does not lessen in any sense the responsibility of the Federal Government when those freight rates based on costs are strangling the commercial development of Alberta. I do not think I am overstating the matter when I suggest to my fellow citizens and governmental authorities that the political revolution and agrarian movements which have been proceeding in Western Canada

had and have their primary foundation in economic discontent. I regard each of the Historic Parties as equally to blame and I am not ashamed to avow that the best service we can render the Dominion of Canada is to build a strong Alberta. Freedom to live does not imply a mere permission to exist.

It may well be that the cause of this is the fearful and wonderful freight classification that I referred to at the outset of my remarks. To sum it all up I want to tell you here that the cause of three-quarters of our trouble is because the Federal Government of Canada (and I don't mean just the Liberal party which is in power, because the Conservatives have been in power for a large part of the time and they are just as responsible) does not set up an equitable freight rate ton for ton and mile for mile, and I challenge them to set it up on the basis of the Spokane principle in which goods could be taken off in Edmonton and be partially unloaded here and get the benefit of the lower rate. The freight structure of Ontario and Quebec is much smaller than the prairies.

SCRAP METAL WAR SALVAGE

I have spoken to you about various agricultural products which I have mentioned. I will now deal with something else. Ladies and gentlemen, are you aware that the scrap metal, the steel and iron, the material gathered up in your yards and fields, your broken plows, and so on, in immediately pre-war days was shipped to the Pacific coast by our railways and carried by them at a basic rate of \$5.00 a cwt. in 40 ton lots when going to the Empire of Japan? Can you explain to me why it is that scrap iron which is now necessary in this time of national agony to make the hundred and one things required for our soldiers across the ocean, why the railways should charge \$10.00 a ton for 50 ton lots of the same stuff to the Pacific coast? Don't think for one moment that this is done by the railways. It is done by the basic freight rates commission in Eastern Canada.

I am reading now from an original report delivered to myself in which it was pointed out that the Board of Transport Commissioners, representatives of the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific and the National War Services Department, and the Department of Munitions and Supply, decided that under all the applicable circumstances \$10.00 a ton for scrap metal was a fit and proper rate — or double the amount paid in pre-war times when Japan was using it to drain the heart's blood out of the Chinese Empire.

I would like to point out to you that transportation is the basis of our national economy. No matter what you do, you have to turn your

product into money, and before the cash is available it has to become subject to transportation to fit and proper markets for its consumption. Alberta sales (that is the money derived by each of you from your sales) comes to your hands minus the cost of transportation. All Alberta purchases which you make, come to you plus transportation costs, and the long haul differential I mentioned to you.

The position as I see it — and I know of no reason why it cannot be put in force (it has been done in the States) — is that the national Government of our country should devote some consideration to the national economy of the prairie West.

Those of our boys who will be coming home will be trying in days to come to make their livelihood and start life over again in peace and comfort upon some of the broad acres of the prairies that surround us. I say it is our duty to see that the grappling freight rates we have survived are not continuously imposed on them.

I am glad to pay a tribute to the public spirited merchants, wholesalers and retailers of the City of Edmonton in this particular matter, who, in times past, have presented from the Board of Trade to the Federal Government and Federal Government Commissions the most carefully documented reports upon the gross inequity of the freight rates in their application to the prairies of our West.

There is no politics in this. Is there any reason, and I put it to you, why this great association of Alberta farmers should not give us every assistance, and if necessary make this a vanguard of an attack whereby this freight rate system will be straightened out and these inequities and irregularities swept away? I know of none. Gentlemen, your pocket is not a concern of politics. The welfare of your wives and children is not a question of politics. Is the farm economy to be polluted and upset by the continuance of this freight rate system by this or any other federal government of our country which continues to give the go-by to such a condition of affairs?

I submit to you that the time is ripe, that there is no time like the present. We are told the world is in a fluid condition. We are all watching and wondering and waiting to find out what the result will be in our own land. Don't you think it is up to you as individuals in your locals and in this great Convention to your executive to spare no efforts to make all representations possible to the provincial government of our province. Are you going to lie like dumb driven cattle under the conditions of freight rates which exercises a strangle hold on the economic development of our country, and allow your boys and girls to continue under the servitude which

you men have suffered under in the not too distant past.

This is not a regional question. It is of vital importance to our nation. Upon its solution depends the future of Canada and the economic security of our people.

The Government and Parliament of Canada is solely responsible for the incidence of transportation rates. In times past it alienated within Alberta, 13,120,000 acres for the purpose of railway construction, but the mileage so constructed in Eastern Canada and British Columbia far exceeded that in our own Province. It cannot be out of place now to suggest that such a diversion of our public lands justifies the claim of Alberta and similarly of Saskatchewan and Manitoba to at least the same equal treatment with the most favoured province or provinces within Canada in respect of transportation arrangements.

Ladies and Gentlemen — in closing I appeal to you to help us and authorize your executive bodies to take every step that can be taken, and I would urge you to go political lengths if necessary for the purpose of securing what is in good faith and good conscience a non-political but economic result.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ross has kindly consented to answer questions directed to him on the subject matter of his address.

DELEGATE: Has any serious attempt been made in the past to bring this matter to the eyes of the government?

A. It is my privilege and pleasure to tell you that the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce printed a large pamphlet at the time of the Sirois Commission which was submitted. Also the existing provincial administration here submitted a large brief dealing with the matter.

DELEGATE: When the U. S. soldiers on Midway Island were being plastered with bullets made from old Singer Sewing Machines and so on, why was it that the rates to Japan were far cheaper than the rates for scrap metal now are to Vancouver?

A. It is not possible to answer that question at all.

I have put that query tonight and I know of no reason why it should have been permitted, and know of no reason why the Department of Munitions and Supplies should have allowed it, and I have been unable to find any answer to that question any more than to one other item I omitted. This is rather a joke. You remember about 2½ years ago they had a big cage at the corner of the Bank of Montreal Building and Jasper, in which aluminum pots and kettles were placed? The freight charged on those kettles — 2½ tons

of them — was \$90.00 a ton sent down for salvage, and the only explanation I ever heard of that is that those wretched pots and pans were put in boxes or sacks and were bulky, and anyone of intelligence should have known enough to flatten them out with a steam roller, and make it about 40 tons for a full car-load.

DELEGATE: While shipping scrap metal to Japan at lower rates than it could be shipped to Vancouver, the scrap metal was being used to mutilate the Chinese, and we in Canada were asked to donate money to the Red Cross to bind up their wounds.

A. That appears to me, ladies and gentlemen, to be one of the futile parts of the wonderful appeasement campaign we had in the period before the war.

DELEGATE: Did the Sirois Commission make any recommendations to the government to make an adjustment of those rates?

A. I have never seen the Sirois Report. There was so much opposition to it, particularly in Eastern Canada, that I think there will have to be another commission report before that can be implemented. Unfortunately it was impossible for us and impossible for the government to obtain any unification on the question.

DELEGATE: Could Mr. Ross tell us how large a part the farm organizations in the Western States played in the Spokane Charter?

A. They played that part that I am asking you and your farm organizations across Canada tonight to play for us in the future so as to amend a situation which is a disgrace to us all.

DELEGATE: Would like to ask whether the cause for the difference between the freight rates from Montreal to Edmonton and Montreal to Vancouver is because of being in competition at Vancouver with ocean rates.

A. Yes, that is right. They have to meet the competition of freight brought to Vancouver by the Panama, but our answer to that is that if it is possible for the U. S. to set up that Spokane freight principle I mentioned to you, it is equally possible for the good and welfare of the people of our country to set it up on our own prairies.

DELEGATE: Could you give us the difference between our wheat freight rates between here and Liverpool and from here to Vancouver?

A. I cannot. But so far as my reading has led me to ascertain, the freight rate from here to Fort William is on a higher basis for bread than Toronto to St. John.

DELEGATE: No doubt the speaker is aware of the controversy that has taken place between the United States and Canadian authorities in regard to the price of wheat. We have sold them

so many million bushels of wheat, and they are intensely angry at the fact that we have charged them Chinese and Japanese export rates for that wheat when they believe we should only charge them domestic export rates for that wheat. Will you answer this? Our allies need that wheat and are willing to buy it and pay more money to us than the Canadian Government will pay us farmers to produce it. Where is the nigger in the woodpile? Who can dictate to the U. S. government that they should pay the Oriental export prices for wheat when only a domestic North America price should be paid. Have the C. P. R. got control of the government? What is your own opinion?

A. My answer is this — that disunity amongst the farmers and amongst the trades and businesses of our own country is solely and entirely responsible for the continuance of the present system of freight rates. Regarding the comparative prices between U. S. and Canadian wheat, I am not able to tell you the reason why our wheat still is \$1.24 and theirs \$1.69, but I do say that we cannot offend any country much less the States, I think, or within our own country, if for our own immediate benefit we should start and put our own house in order and start at the foundation; and that is the freight rates.

DELEGATE: I think Mr. Ross evaded the question — who is responsible for the discrimination?

CHAIRMAN: Unless Mr. Ross is willing to answer I don't think it is a fair question.

MR. ROSS: I can only give you my own opinion and that is this — that all these prices must in the long run be regulated by freights. You know the wheat freight rate from here to Fort William is about 24c. Whether that is just or unjust it is not for me to speculate, but it is a question for our national government under our goading and that of other good citizens to settle once and for all for the benefit of all our people.

DELEGATE: If you go into a store here and buy two tins of milk, one Alpha and one Borden's, there is no difference — both are 11 cents. What I would like to know is who gets the difference and how is this applied?

A. They have local rates and long distance haul rates and all these rates are subject to certain considerations which are set by the Basic Freight Rates Committee which sits in the East, and they are permitted to do that by the federal government and the Transport Commission.

MR. STIMPLE: I would like to move a vote of thanks to Mr. Ross.

MR. ROSS: Thank you for the courteous reception given me.

CHAIRMAN: May I add to this the fact that Mr. Ross has touched on the nerve centre of our agricultural life in Western Canada — I wish to thank him for his highly enlightening address on the subject of freight rates.

The next speaker was one who had addressed our Convention last year and whom the delegates were again wishful to hear.

Mr. Allen of the Railway Unions of the Edmonton Dist., brought fraternal greetings from the railroad men and also gave a stirring address on the Trade Union movement.

CHAIRMAN: Now I take great pleasure in introducing to you Mr. Allen, who will bring you fraternal greetings from the Railroad Unions of the Edmonton District.

Address by Mr. Allen

MR. ALLEN: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. It is with a great deal of diffidence that I appear in front of you following the last speaker, who has so rightfully condemned the freight rates, particularly as I work for a railway company.

I started out in my earlier life thinking to be a farmer, but they put me milking cows, and I said to myself, "My God — you better quit and find an easier job," and so I am a clerk with the railway today.

Everything Mr. Ross said is true. We see the analogy of the C. N. R. last year having a clear profit of over 80 million dollars. That is \$7.00 per head for every person in Canada, and seven to eight hundred dollars per head for each of its employees.

Labor has never said, nor does it agree, that such an accumulation of wealth should go into the hands of such a small number of people as .6% of the population. We, in the labor movement, have wrested in some measure some of these profits from them by obtaining better working conditions and higher rates of pay.

The trade union movement has many failings and many faults. It has been continually learning its lessons.

Here is one illustration. Mr. McKenzie King said he was going to keep a ceiling price on every commodity and would not allow the cost of living to rise without control and that to be fair to the workers they would grant a cost of living bonus. There was also a nigger in that woodpile — for we see that a few of the workers receive the full cost of living bonus which amounts to well over \$4.00 a week, and we have the analogy of poorer paid workers receiving 65 and 70 cents per week. Why was it when the railroad unions first heard

of this cost of living bonus, they had to spend thousands to get it?

They learned a lesson. They had between 18 and 20 different organizations — they had the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, the Brotherhood of Conductors, of Engineers, of Firemen, of Clerks, and so on. When each group wanted to get some improvement they went as a group and the railway management, both in the C. P. and the C. N. R. could say to them — well, what are you going to do about it? We are not going to give it to you.

What effective weapon has a trade union? What is the only weapon a trade union has? This is the word so much misused by the press, so misused by Mr. McKenzie King, the word strike. It is no use striking unless you can tie an industry up — but when only one section decides to strike they cannot tie up the railroads, nor can any other group.

The trade union movement of the railways, realizing this, said there must be some form of unity. So they then formed a conference of the general chairmen of all these organizations, so that when we were demanding the cost of living bonus, the company didn't meet one of the 18 unions, but met them all combined under one leadership. What did the railway management realize? (The C. P. R. and C. N. R. sat in together at that time, I might add they had unity). What did they realize?

They realized that if that committee of these 18 general chairmen said there will be a strike, a strike vote was taken. Over 90% voted to strike, the whole railway system would be tied up. Not a wheel would turn; the strike would then be successful.

You will remember last year when we came as a fraternal delegate, we urged upon your unity — that you should be united in one body. We have seen a year pass, and I am rather inclined to think you are a little further away from unity today than a year ago. I am informed that there are 103,000 farmers in Alberta. The newspapers say your organization has a membership of 17,000. Another organization has a membership of 7,000. The two combined have not a membership of the majority of the farmers of this province. This is a tragedy. Is there a way out? I see a gentleman in the audience shaking his head. But there is a way out.

Let's think of the word "strike" that is so abhorrent, for a minute or two. Let's suppose you said we are going on strike. We are not going to put any hogs on the market. Under your present conditions the powers that be would laugh at you. Why? Because others who don't belong to the union would put theirs on the market and for scabbing on you the government and the financial interests would probably pay them

a premium. What would be your situation though, if you said we are not going to put a hog on the market, and you knew you could say the railroad men won't move a hog as long as you were on strike?

Can that be accomplished? Yes. How? I maintain that you farmers have got to make a definite advance toward some alliance or association with the trade union movement of this country. There are certain gentlemen farmers who won't agree with me, but the vast majority of you are workers, and hard workers, and if statistics are true, the majority of you don't own your own land nor do you ever hope to under the financial set-up of today. You are slaves to your job the same as I am in order to get enough to eat and keep in health to go to work to-morrow morning to make a few more dollars to repeat the process.

That is true. Now then — some might say we cannot become trade unionists. Why not? You have as much right to be a trade unionist as I have. You are workers. You say the movement does not think much of us. They say those farmers don't know what they want. They say if you add 10c a gallon to the price of milk the trade unionists will grouse. Ladies and gentlemen — nothing could be further from the truth! The trade unionist has never groused at paying more where he knew the difference was going to the man who produced the commodity. What the trade unionist does grouse about is the fact that a corporation can make 80 million dollars when the transportation system of this country should be a public utility in the service of each one of us. The trade unionist has never groused at you getting better conditions. They have rather felt sorry for you because you could not unite.

There have been all sorts of titles produced, you have quarreled over a name, and over this and that. This quarrelling has been caused with malicious intent by those who don't want you united. You have gone to governments with your petitions and what did they do? They say, "you are a fine bunch"! and then the petition goes in the wastepaper basket. Your own government was not above doing that on occasion.

Now, can you make yourselves heard? Have the trade unions made themselves heard? Let's look at a very late example. We saw the United Mine Workers demand better conditions, and a commission was appointed, and the commission sat. Suddenly the officials of the United Mine Workers realized the commission had no power to make any decision and they were scared of the old wastepaper basket action and they went on strike and what did they get? The chairman of that commission deplored the action and the

(Continued on Page 17)

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206 Agency Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

Editorial

The second Annual Convention of the Alberta Farmers' Union has passed into history. The organization is still very young, but has already made its influence felt. It came into being as a protest organization against the almost intolerable conditions under which agriculture had been suffering for a number of years. It has demanded fundamental reforms and because of this has attracted a large body of forward-looking farmers who realize that fundamental reforms are needed and that nothing else will be sufficient. If the organization is to continue to be successful it will be necessary to continue to advocate the fundamental reforms which are necessary to make of farming itself a dignified remunerative occupation.

Neither will it be sufficient to merely advocate such reforms. It will be necessary also to fight for them and to continue fighting until they are attained. This is the most patriotic duty a farmer can do at the present time because unless the farmers of Canada are able to make a reasonable living in the years following the war, this country will not be a suitable place for the fighting men to return to. If it is in the National Interest that efficient farmers be kept on the land in Wartime it is equally in the National Interest that they be kept on in Peace Time.

Farmers have been fighting, along with others during the War to make secure the homes of all freedom-loving people. With victory won and this result within our grasp, it should be unthinkable that because of debt, (which had its origin in low prices and the interest system) some farmers should then lose their homes. The National Conscience needs to be awake against such a possible betrayal. And it is the Duty of the Alberta Farmers' Union to see that this Conscience is kept awake.

Correspondence

Warburg, Alberta,
February 2nd, 1944.

Dear Mr. Nichols:-

Since pork is one of the most vital questions to the farmer today, let's get it all settled at once not only the producer price but also the price to the consumer. I have been attending conventions of one sort or another for the past 10 years and there has been the following resolution brought into many of these conventions.

"We demand that the Packers stamp all hog meats with the Grade it was bought at and sell to the consumer accordingly."

Now this resolution has always had the approval of conventions 100% but so far all the pork products you buy in meat markets are priced on the premium hog.

The other day one of my neighbors (and by the way he is not yet an A.F.U. man) went into a butcher shop in Edmonton to buy some liver, which was only 22 cents per pound. Looking around he saw some hog carcasses hanging up so he asked the butcher how he sold the different grades of these hogs. The butcher replied "I don't know what you mean. There is only one price for hams and bacon." My neighbor then explained how the farmer gets paid by grades and he knew nothing about it. It was just all pork to him.

Now I am sure the farmer would not object to his hog being graded C (that is if it really was a C) if he knew that the meat was stamped and sold to the public accordingly.

Let's wake up fellow members and put a stop to this Packers' racket and make them call a calf a calf; and not a cow. Don't let them sell a Grade C hog for a premium hog. According to them there would be no difference between a tough old cow and a stall fed calf.

Now if this neighbor of mine (and I know we have quite a few like him yet all over Alberta) would just get behind his Farmers' Union and support it 100% he would be able to do something about the grading of meat at times and why shouldn't he be interested in the price both selling and buying?

If this letter should get in our A.F.U. Bulletin I hope every local will take this matter up and give it a thorough airing.

Yours truly,
A. J. Hepburn, Sub. Dir. in Div. 9.

NOTICE TO HOG RAISERS

We urge all farmers to keep their old grading slips so as to compare them with the present grading.

Address by Mr. Allen

(Continued from Page 15)

fact that they had to give an increase in wages and better working conditions. That is a matter of public record. It was even in the press.

Mr. Beatty got on a rampage across Canada a few years ago when he saw no profits, and he said that in the interests of Canada there should be an amalgamation of the railways, and he was ably supported in his views by the editor of the Farm and Ranch Review in Calgary. I don't think that editor ever was a farmer. The leadership of the trade union said to us — be quiet — what happened? The boys of the rank and file of the workers paid their two bits to put on radio programs and to send out pamphlets all over the country. The leadership of the trade unions was afraid of such a movement, but the rank and file said we pay you and you will do as we tell you. What was the consequence? That movement grew across Canada, the rank and file movement, and Beatty did not put in amalgamation.

You have heard a discussion on freight rates. I well remember the time when if you were going to use wheat in Vancouver you paid 43c a hundred pounds, and if it was going to the Orient you paid 21c. The financial interests made these differentials, that .6% of the population of Canada, who own the wealth. We are informed that 43% of the population of Canada are workers of the trade union category. Around 32% are farmers. That means some 75% of the entire population of Canada are definitely in the working class, which leaves 25%. 24.4% of these are the so-called middle class, the white collared guys like myself. .6% have incomes of over \$10,000 per year. The other 99.4% have less than \$10,000 a year, graduating down till we find the average income of the farmers is well under \$1,000 per year. This 43% of the workers is slightly higher. You might well say that 50% of the population of this country have incomes of around \$1,000 and less per year.

You may say, well there are other factors. You union men want an eight-hour day. We can't have that. I say if you get enough for your products, you can do the same as the railways. They run 24 hours a day 365 days of the year. You can afford help to take care of the other 16 hours while you work eight hours.

These things can be obtained, and the only message I have to give you, ladies and gentlemen, is one in all sincerity. Can you not find some way to become involved in the trade union movement? Can you not in some way ally the trade union movement directly with you so that when you make a demand the government will

know the whole of the trade union movement is behind you? There is a little selfishness in it too. We in the trade union movement know if we have you behind us we have a powerful movement. We know if we did have to go on strike you could feed us, and I know you would not let us starve. And we can assure you that if you become trade unionists, not only in name, but in practice, you will be heard and you have only got to think of what organized labor has done for itself — how much more could you do for yourselves if organized along the same lines. You can have it. It is yours to get. Will you come in and do something? Will you take some definite step to become part of the trade union movement in whatever way possible for you to be?

Mr. Allen received a warm welcome for his fighting speech.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Allen has consented to answer questions in respect to the railroad labor union, if you wish to ask them.

DELEGATE: What definite step should the United Farmers take to get into a trade union?

Mr. Allen thinks we are thoroughly organized the same as the railroad men. I know we are not properly organized and cannot get into a trade union until we are.

MR. ALLEN: I think I made myself perfectly clear when I stated to you that the farmers organized in Alberta were less than one-fifth of the total farmer population of Alberta. We have trade unions that are not 100%. We have to start — we made a start in the Macdonald Hotel 10 years ago and gradually won them in. I say that is the eventual goal — 100% organization — and I believe that if you ally with the trade union movement you will increase your membership rapidly.

DELEGATE: I might ask what steps you would suggest for this union to become affiliated with the trade union movement.

MR. ALLEN: There are a number of steps. The most desirable is to obtain a charter as a trade union. The next step might be direct affiliation. The method I see which would be ideal would be to become chartered under a trade union. It would not affect your status in any way whatsoever. You would simply secure a dominion charter and go on from there.

DELEGATE: I am entirely disagreeable. I am an old railroad man and I belonged to the union. I say to you and to all that may listen to me that you cannot amalgamate the producer and labor together. I claim that we are a young organization and that we must handle this thing very carefully.

CHAIRMAN: I ask you to direct questions on the subject matter of the address.

DELEGATE: I would like to ask the speaker a question. He made a statement that the railroad companies made profits of 80 million dollars, and that his organization did take some of this money, through representations to the railroad companies insofar as threatened strike is concerned. I would like to ask, was that money derived from the railway companies or from those monies the railway employees received or from the more unfortunate people who are working for less remuneration than they?

MR. ALLEN: You ask a rather ticklish question. You must realize that the only place wealth can come from is from labor. Where does it go? Some of the profits were diverted back and because some unfortunates are getting lower salaries does not say they should attempt in any shape or form to bring the higher salaried men down to their level. It should be their aim to get into the higher income brackets.

DELEGATE: May I ask what are the dues you pay to your union?

MR. ALLEN: Well, I know some organizations that pay as low as fifty cents a month. When the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers went into the real estate and banking business in the States they paid \$29.00 a year. My own dues are \$1.25 per month, which is \$15.00 a year. From \$1.00 a month up is the average. Don't forget that there is a factor there, that we have an enormous overhead. We made a mistake ourselves — there are labor men representing labor getting salaries of \$6,000 and up to \$26,000 per year. We think you can guard against that by saying that no president shall remain in office more than a couple of years, and he shall not receive any higher salary than he would have if he had remained in the same occupation he was formerly in.

DELEGATE: The speaker made reference to the miners' strike. I say that the miners' strike, which they won, was won at the expense mostly of the farmers, because they were not strong enough in their organization to take from their employers the monies which would cover their dollar a day plus their holidays with pay. They did not receive one cent from the employers of labor. They were not strong enough because the employers of the mines receive approximately 10% of their production. The miners receive the other 90%. Therefore we find that that raise was taken from the consumer. Organized labor is not strong enough to take anything from the master class today.

MR. ALLEN: I am not here to scrap with you, nor you with me. Listen — every increase in pay got by any worker comes from the man who buys the product produced by the worker. We know if you farmers get more for your pro-

duce we are going to pay for it — but we will demand more till we get it.

DELEGATE: Does the speaker agree with me that in the event of the farmers joining the trade union movement, it will unify labor and the farmer far more than they have been united before?

MR. ALLEN: I agree absolutely with the gentleman. There has not been the unity nor is there yet the desired unity in the movement. Just recently we saw in the paper where Lewis had again been turned down by the A.F.L. from unifying, but also a line was added that the door was still open. We know that a few years ago there were two distinct movements in Canada and the United States. Nothing good could be said by one of the other. You have now heard over the radio the two leaders appearing and speaking at the same time.

Bring the farmers in and we will go still further towards unity and get a united mass movement of workers.

DELEGATE: Just what affiliation fees would this organization have to pay to the trade union?

MR. ALLEN: There would certainly be some. But supposing you did join. You have 17,000 members. Supposing you had \$17,000 to spend. There are four distinct movements in this country at the present time who would charter you, and each of them have a relative strength. If it was found the fee was too great there are other ways out, but why raise these bogies now? The main idea is for your convention to instruct your officers to go ahead in unity with the trade union movement. To the devil with the cost! You have trusted them for a year, and you should know they will not burden you with any undue cost nor is the labor movement going to ask from you an undue cost. The only thing is that if you get a trade union charter you may have to pay a per capita tax.

DELEGATE: Do you think that if the farmers' union affiliated with the railroad workers and wanted to take off a crop, might we not be up against a strike unless we paid trade union wages?

MR. ALLEN: That is to your farm help? Now look—I will answer it this way. The trade union movement will expect you to follow the golden rule — do unto others as you would have done unto yourselves.

DELEGATE: I would like to ask if it is not a fact that if we farmers and trade unionists and we fathers in the Canadian Legion who have lost our sons overseas don't unite we will all hang separately?

MR. ALLEN: I agree.

DELEGATE: I was the delegate who asked

Mr. Allen what dues he pays to his organization, and I did not ask that in an antagonistic mood. I asked the same question of the station agent in Hairy Hill a few years ago, and he answered that he paid in the vicinity of \$16 to his union. He said, what are you paying to your union. I said \$1.00. He said I pay \$16 to my union but I have a union that is looking out for my interests day and night and it has men travelling around taking the complaints of all railroad men all over Canada. He said you are paying \$1.00 to your union and you have a one dollar organization.

Mr. Allen received another hearty clap at the conclusion of the question period.

CHAIRMAN (MR. YOUNG): I believe we have now gone far enough in this question period.

MR. CHARBEAU: I wish to move a vote of thanks to Mr. Allen for coming here tonight to speak to us about this important matter.

(This motion was duly seconded and carried).

MR. STEMPFEL: I move that the trade union resolution be put over until to-morrow.

MR. ALTON: I second that.

CARRIED.

MR. LOVELOCK: I move we now adjourn this session and meet again at 9.30 to-morrow morning.

CARRIED.

January 26th — Morning Session

(Mr. McGowan in the Chair)

MR. MCGOWAN: I will call on Mr. Young, chairman of the Order of Business Committee, to tell us what is on the program this morning.

MR. YOUNG: Mr. Chairman, the Order of Business Committee recommends that you take up now the constitutional amendments of which we gave notice to you yesterday. These amendments which are proposed are all additions to the constitution. They are not changes in any parts of the constitution now existing. A motion to accept this recommendation will have to be carried before we can proceed. I will move that the recommendation be accepted.

MR. LOVELOCK: I second the motion.

MR. YOUNG: The first amendment is this—reads. "No person shall be eligible to hold the office of president for more than three terms consecutively, but shall again become eligible to election at the next annual meeting."

In explanation — it has been the thought of this body, I think for some years, since its inception, that no person should be allowed to hold the office of president for a long term of years, and it was in response to that idea that this was drafted. We use the word "term" rather than "years" because if the word "years" were

used it might be that the convention would have to be held in less than a year or in 13 months, and the technical point might arise that the president had not been president for three or four years, and therefore was eligible to election again. In the latter part of this, if a man has been president for three terms he has to drop out but can be elected again to that position after a lapse of a term if it is the wish of the organization. I am not speaking in favor or against this—just explaining it to you.

I might point out to you that it takes a three-fourths majority of this body to adopt any constitutional amendment.

MR. STIMPFLER: I move this amendment.

MR. GEO. KELLY: I second the motion.

CHAIRMAN: It is now open for discussion.

(No discussion)

CARRIED.

MR. YOUNG: Now we come to the pooling of fares—to be known as No. 14(a). The railway or bus fares of all accredited delegates shall be pooled (reads).

RE POOLING OF FARES

To be known as 14 (a)

The railway or bus fares of all accredited delegates shall be pooled. In the case of delegates travelling by other means, they will be dealt with on the basis of the railway fare from their nearest station. When the call to the Convention is issued the executive shall authorize an estimate of the pool rate which shall be sent to all locals. When the delegates are being registered all those whose railway fare is less than the estimated pool rate shall be required to pay into the pool an amount equal to the difference, while those whose fare is greater, will receive an adjustment to bring them to the same basis. After all the delegates are registered and the actual pool rate is determined, the committee in charge may make a further adjustment.

Moved and seconded.

CARRIED.

I think that is self-explanatory. If there is any point of information you wish, I will try and give it to you.

MR. KELLY: I move that.

MR. KOMINSKI: I second that motion.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor?

CARRIED.

MR. YOUNG: Regarding district delegates—42(a). (Reads).

RE DISTRICT DELEGATES

To be known as 42 (a)

Each District shall be entitled to send one delegate to the Annual Convention, this delegate

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New Alberta Farmers' Union Officers and



The board of directors of the Alberta Farmers' Union, consisting of executive officers elected at the Union's annual convention, and a director from each Union District in the province, are shown in the photograph above, taken at the A. F. U. Annual Convention, held in Edmonton. In the front row (from the left) are: H. E. Nichols, secretary-treasurer of the Union, Edmonton; William Hawrelak, Jr., Wasel, 4th vice-president; W. G. Logan, Holden, 2nd vice-

president; James Jackson, Irma Gowan, Hairy Hill, 1st vice-president; Robert McArthur, 3rd vice-president, and a director from District 8. In the back row are more directors: George Krohn, N. Baron, Bonnyville, District 12; Henry Young, Milkman, Vermilion, District 7; and

and Board of Directors for the Year 1944



uma, president; Chester O. Mc-
President; Mrs. J. Geddes, Win-
and A. H. Friend, Rosalind,
In the back row, from the left,
Kropinske, Consort, District 11;
District 4; L. E. Pharis, Magrath,
Millet, District 9; G. J. Nest-
; A. MacDonald, Spirit River,

District 1; R. N. Russell, Athabasca, District 3; W. J. Lan-
dry, Dawson Creek, B. C., B. C. Block; A. A. Anderson,
Drumheller, District 10, and W. A. Yusep, Ispas, Dist-
rict 6. Two directors not in the picture are George Bev-
ington, Winterburn, District 5, and T. Ouellet, Donnelly, of
District 2. The Union's executive officers were elected on
Wednesday, Jan'y 26th, at the Union Convention, and the
directors were elected at district conventions, held last year.

January 26th — Morning Session

(Continued from Page 19)

to be chosen from the Board of Directors of the District Association.

Moved by Mrs. Geddes and seconded by Mr. Bevington.

I might say that covers the point which we took some time discussing here yesterday as to the advisability of giving districts the right to representation.

MR. LOVELOCK: I move that.

MR. OLSEN: I second that.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor?

CARRIED.

Next Resolution No. 262. (Lost).

Freight Rates Board Resolution No. 9A.

1. That whereas Western Canadian Prairie Provinces and the Province of Alberta in particular, have been subjected by authority of the Government of Canada, to the imposition of crushing railway freights, outward as well as inward bound, whereby the trades, industries and Agriculture of this province have been penalized and their success obstructed.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Convention records its determination to promote by every constitutional means.

The establishment of a dominion-wide INTERNAL MARKETING SYSTEM whereby equalization of Freight Rates per ton per mile or their equivalent may be established on the Railways of Canada.

2. That in pursuance thereof we consider that Alberta shippers should not be prejudiced and caused financial loss, through the unfair incidence of such Railway Freights.

3. That the shipping of feed grains to the province of Ontario free of freights as at present, whereby hog raising in the province of Alberta has been obstructed is unfair and if continued should be applicable to other products of the prairie provinces.

4. That we censure the continuance of special privileges in respect of Railway lands by the Government of Canada whereby the taxation base of this province and many municipalities has been narrowed.

5. That we consider the Dominion of Canada is in duty bound to give relief in respect of Railway freights to Alberta and its sister provinces on the Prairies, because Alberta public lands and minerals were in large part alienated for the purposes of main line construction. That such land and mineral alienation was paid for so far as land subsidies were concerned by the three prairie provinces out of nine. That in Alberta this transfer of Railway lands amounted to 13,120,000 acres.

6. That as Alberta imports in round figures about 80% of all goods sold from extra provincial points the incidence of these railway freights affects every home in this province. Thus hardware and canned goods from Montreal to Edmonton or Calgary pay $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the freight on the same goods transported from Montreal across the mountains to Vancouver while the export of livestock is favoured as against heavier freights for the export of processed meats.

7. That for the information of our people we note and deplore that between 1934 and 1937 the freight on scrap metal iron and steel from Edmonton to Vancouver was \$5.00 per ton per car of 40 tons and this applied on shipments to Japan, while the rate recently, if not now in effect, is \$10.00 per ton for carlots of 50 tons, although the gravest national emergency exists; and this convention demands an enquiry and report as to the cost of collection, packing, shipping and freights on all salvage collected and contributed by our people, and any incidental charges thereon against the nation in this time of stress and trial.

MR. RUSSELL: I move that Resolution.

MR. STIMPFE: I second that.

MR. NICOLSON: Will there be a copy available

MR. RUSSELL: That is the only copy we have at present.

MR. SISSONS: I should think that should be printed in our own bulletin. I think this information will bring many members into this organization.

MR. RUDD: I think a copy of that resolution should be sent to every local. It would help our local I know to build itself stronger and bigger.

CHAIRMAN: Are you ready for the question?

CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN: We have another resolution now. Mr. Russell will read it.

MR. RUSSELL: This is resolution No. 75, page 11.

After some discussion a substitute resolution was introduced by Mr. Young.

"WHEREAS co-operation between the organized farmers and the Trade Union Movement would greatly increase the strength of both movements,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this convention endorse the principle of some kind of affiliation with the Trade Union Movement, and instruct our Board and Executive to investigate and try and work out some plan to this end, while at the same time safeguarding the autonomy of this organization, such a plan to be submitted for approval either to the next convention or to

a referendum of the membership of the Alberta Farmers' Union."

I move that this be taken as a substitute for the other resolution.

CARRIED.

MR. ASSERUED: I second that.

MR. SEALY: I withdraw my amendment in favor of that.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor of the substitute motion being discussed?

CARRIED.

After two amendments had been offered and considerable discussion taken place, the proceedings were suspended in order to hear Mr. Pederson's C.C.I.L. address.

Mr. Peterson's Speech

Mr. Chairman Ladies and Gentlemen:-

I thank you very sincerely for this opportunity to again appear before you in behalf of Canadian Co-Operative Implements Limited.

I have just recently returned from Saskatoon from a Board Meeting of our organization, with the instructions to carry to you direct from our Board the fraternal greetings of our Board of Directors and our membership of some twenty three thousand, who live in the wide-spread areas of Western Canada reaching from the far north-west point of Dawson Creek in B. C. and Peace River, to the Eastern Boundaries of Manitoba.

C. C. I. L. has had the privilege of appearing before you at two of your conventions previously to this one, and this being the third occasion it may be possible that some repetition may occur in what I have to say to you today — not knowing how extensive your knowledge of our organization may be at this time.

First of all let me say that C. C. I. L. is very much alive and at work — and while wartime regulations and conditions which had never existed until recently have stymied some of our activities of organizational work in the membership field and in the procuring of a source of machinery from Canadian manufacturers — the organization has done much constructive work and planning in this interval — in work at the other end of the scene — in fact more constructive and with greater possibilities than we at one time could have hoped for.

So I would like to use the time at my disposal mostly in the form of a progress report upon C. C. I. L. activities — and if I miss some of the information that you seek regarding the structure of the organization or any phase of its set-up — I will be glad to answer questions that you wish to direct to me.

Turning back briefly towards our beginning late in 1939 you will recall that we got up an objective of 50,000 members and approximately one-half million dollars of working capital there-

from—by receiving share capital from the members at the rate of five cents per cultivated acre.

We anticipated that this would receive general acceptance from the country as a basis of share capital — and it proved to be quite correct — the machinery consumer responded quite readily to this — and until gasoline and rubber and manpower restrictions stymied our sign up activities the enrollment of members came along very well, particularly in Saskatchewan and parts of Manitoba where we had a strong organizational force backed by the large co-operatives of those areas.

Much valuable educational and organizational assistance came forth from the prairie co-operatives — and from the economic farmer groups such as yours — and some of the organizations contributed funds to us and also the three governments assisted us financially, and many of the men who assisted in the framing of the plan were men loaned to us from these major co-operatives and several of them are still on loan engaged in active work in behalf of C. C. I. L.

After organization work got under way large numbers of individuals from many directions lent themselves generously to the campaign work.

When the results of the first wave of sign-up was summed up we found that we had enrolled 2,134 members in Alberta, 5,932 in Manitoba and 15,270 in Saskatchewan, and total over all of 23,336 members.

The plan of membership set-up is that the member enrolls with his district association and then the district invests its funds in the main body. Six districts in Alberta incorporated themselves, nine in Manitoba and sixteen in Saskatchewan; a total of thirty-one districts.

The total sum of working capital raised by this first effort was \$240,648.00, approximately one-half of our first mentioned objective.

You will recall that one of our original plans was to consolidate the machinery requirements of our members, and to seek to take over the distribution of one of the Canadian Machinery Companies.

This plan of procedure was completely washed away by the impact of the war and the regulations which by necessity had to be enacted by our Federal Government.

This situation made a complete change of picture as it existed before the war. Machinery Companies which previous to these regulations always found themselves involved in a huge cumbersome and costly distribution problem now found that they had no distribution problem of any consequence. They found themselves in the reverse position of having very little or no machinery to distribute, and a large and growing demand at their factory door to take immediately any machinery that they had ready for distribution, so their interest in us disappeared, and

with it went our plan of distribution into discard.

This event I personally look upon as a blessing in disguise, because we have since that happening been able to get together with the Americans upon their invitation to join with them upon a sounder basis of both co-operative production and co-operative distribution plans, to the extent that our accumulated amount of working capital and potential machinery business will permit us to do, thereby we will, as time goes on, build ourselves up soundly instead of building up a Machinery Company as has often been the case under this sort of a combination arrangement.

We have further made very practical arrangements concerning distribution when the time comes — the existing consumer outlets in the provinces (the co-operative stores and the wholesales) have offered their co-operation with us, and this valued, offer of assistance has been accepted by C. C. I. L.

We recently met in Saskatoon and tentatively divided the activities of production and distribution which are two distinct phases of operations — and thereby eliminating any future possibilities of competition or duplication arising between two co-operative bodies. Further details of this procedure will be clarified and explained at the oncoming annual meeting of C. C. I. L. on February 7th, at Saskatoon.

You will recall that our original plan provided — that 15% of the share monies raised was to be retained by the local district and the remaining 85% was to be held in trust by C. C. I. L. which was closely adhered to — and in event that the objective was not reached that the 85% would be returned to the subscriber if the membership so decided — and did not wish to proceed any further towards putting the organization into further business.

At the last annual meeting the delegates after measuring up the results attained voted unanimously that C. C. I. L. enter into active business with what had been raised — this decision then released the capital raised for the use of the association — and gave the Board the authority to proceed with further business of the association.

The first move was then to place the funds out into temporary safe investments — they were placed out on an interest bearing basis with large Saskatchewan Co-operatives and in this way started to earn an income of interest of some \$7,000.00 annually — which is sufficient to keep C. C. I. L. alive for any length of time and to keep up the contacts with the districts — if we chose to go no further without touching the principal amount of the funds.

In view of the fact that by this time that machinery distribution was nearly all frozen — and that C. C. I. L. original plan of procuring

machinery gone out of sight — it possibly looked to many that C. C. I. L. was finished right then and there.

However, we knew by this time that there was an alternative plan that we could take up and proceed with — and we started to explore this — and before we got very far with it the American Co-operatives invited us to join with them in their machinery programs — and we accepted their invitation.

We have since then taken membership and shares with the National Farm Machinery Co-operatives — whose factory is located at Shellbyville, Indiana, and have made plans with them to go into production as soon as American and Canadian regulations permit us to do so — this is the American Co-operative which successfully produced the co-op. tractor in substantial numbers previously to the war — and which had begun to be distributed in Saskatchewan — the Americans have at recent date acquired another Farm Machinery Factory at Ohio, at a cost of approximately one million dollars, and we will acquire an interest in this project as soon as foreign exchange conditions permit us to do so.

We have together with them designed and engineered the coming co-op. tractor in several sizes — and in doing this engineering we received the services of one of the outstanding agricultural engineers of Western Canada — Mr. Hardy of the University of Saskatchewan, who together with the two American engineers did this work for us.

Since this tractor designing has been completed we have now acquired our own permanently engaged technical engineer who will continue with us and in co-operation with the American engineers — he is now occupied with the designing of a second implement — the one-way disc or tiller combine, as it is sometimes termed. This implement and the tractor are the first ranking implements required by our members — and at the same time we are preparing the repair necessities of these two items — and further examining the possibilities of smaller implements locally and assembly possibilities in strategic spots in the west.

We are well aware that there has been a tremendous depletion of farm machinery on Western Canada farms — and that the situation is steadily growing worse — and that one of the difficult problems of C. C. I. L. is going to be to get large enough production to take care of the needs of our members. We know that the Implement Companies will step in and fill this tremendous vacuum that has been created by scarcity — we see no indications that there will be any reductions in the price. We fear that the price will go the other way instead, we had only to look backwards a short distance into the past to get an indication of what may happen.

We know from the three large implement enquiries that were held on the continent that retail machinery costs are too high. We learned that implement prices on the average increased 100% after they left the factory and got into the hands of the consumer — that expensive system of distribution employed by these organizations under the competitive system of getting business and all of the adherent frills, are responsible for these excessive costs.

We have seen this panorama of increasing prices stretching over the past years. We saw the day in 1913 when the retail price of a binder was \$167.00 — which rose to \$340.00 in 1940 for a seven foot binder basis Regina and No. 1 wheat — and the binder is only one of the essential farm implements needed. And we naturally ask ourselves, where is this going to end? And when measured in terms of bushels of wheat, it cost 261 bushels of wheat to buy the binder in 1913, 637 bushels in 1940, and 740 bushels in 1942.

The large Saskatchewan enquiry after exhaustive examinations made this conclusive and significant statement — that the true and permanent solution of farm implement prices is to be found in co-operative effort — and the total summaries of all three of the enquiries held on the continent was, that they cannot or will they provide any solution of the problem of present farm implements prices.

These investigations resulted in the formation of C. C. I. L. and the results that I have briefly sketched today, is the progress that we have made towards counteracting this intolerable situation. True, it is not a good enough effort for what the situation demands, but that does not mean that we cannot do the necessary job that has to be done. We have only begun, and we have diligently used the men and the material things that we have been able to gather together.

We ask the Alberta Farmers' Union of this province for your support with our future programs. It is vitally important that we receive the weight and the widespread support from an organization like yours. Your possibilities in the educational field are phenomenal if you continue to keep in action.

Membership in C. C. I. L. is not closed at date as the impression seems to be at date. This is far from the truth. Membership has never been closed in this organization. We want to complete our original objective of 50,000 members and not stop even at that figure. It is true that we cannot go out on an extensive sign-up campaign now or for some time to come, but we are going to set a quick and conclusive sign-up campaign when the other end of the picture is more clearly defined.

In the meantime it is very easy for any man to join with C. C. I. L. in Alberta. There are six

good district set-ups now organized which cover the areas reaching through Peace River down through the province lengthwise, and crosswise as far south as Olds, excepting that area towards the north-east of the province north of the North Saskatchewan River — and extending southeastward into the Coronation and Acadia areas. There is a C. C. I. L. District Secretary and a Board of Directors in each one of these Districts who have all of the facilities to enroll you into the organization. It only requires the voluntary effort on your part to contact one of these Secretaries or one of these Directors to gain membership.

This concluded a brief progress report on C. C. I. L. of its objectives, and progress and some of its policies which I would be pleased to enlarge upon if you so desire me to do.

Again thanking you for the courtesies extended to C. C. I. L. through myself.

MR. PETERSON: Now, that is very brief. I wanted to keep to the point, and I know it is not satisfactory and does not carry all the information you may require, but I would be pleased if you are going to permit questions to be asked to answer them.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Peterson. Are there any questions?

MR. ROSE: I would like him to explain to the convention the system in which the C.C.I.L. is collecting its membership.

MR. PETERSON: The plan used in Alberta and very extensively in Saskatchewan was that first the district was set up and a provisional board was set up. This board had the right to sell share capital. It delegated canvassers to visit prospective members and sign them up. That was the only system we could devise at that time.

DELEGATE: As a great many of us are interested in this organization and have invested in it, and I realize a great many farmers at home have not this information, I am wondering if the speaker could provide us with a copy of the statements he made. It would be of benefit.

A. It would not be very difficult to reproduce some of them and I would not object to supplying your organization with a moderate number of them if you desire them. It can be enlarged upon somewhat.

MR. LOVELOCK: Under what act are you organized?

A. We have used every method possible to make this a truly co-operative organization. It is founded 100% upon the Rochdale principle. In incorporating the organization we had to take out a Dominion charter. To incorporate provincially under three different charters, was not practical. We procured a special federal charter. You will understand that there is no Federal Co-operative Associations Act, so we applied for a federal charter. The membership has complete

control right through the organization and directs everything by vote. All the powers of the directors are delegated to them by the members. The equities earned through surpluses accrued in coming years, will all be credited to the patron in proportion to his patronage.

MR. LOVELOCK: I understand you are hooked up with an American company. I would like to ask the speaker how they overcome the dumping act which would be applied if they attempted to sell goods below the cost of those of a Canadian outfit.

A. That is one of the things that has to be overcome. The consensus is we should sell at going prices in whatever district the implements appear. That is sound and co-operative. As long as we don't violate the competitive ceiling price we are on safe ground as to the dumping act.

DELEGATE: Mr. Peterson mentioned that several of these tractors are in operation in Saskatchewan. Can he tell us the price there?

A. There were approximately 220 tractors went into Saskatchewan out of that first production. I am not in a position to tell you the exact retail price there. There was one taken into Alberta and sold through our Co-op Wholesale and that sold for \$1,425.00. This man, after some time, received a patronage dividend of approximately \$125.00. At the same time these tractors arrived, they compared very favorably with what was selling for \$1,800.00 at the time. The Americans estimated they were saving \$100 on every \$1000 worth of purchasing. This was not mass production but small production.

MR. BERQUIST: Many of you fellows had the same experience I had. They have too many kinds of tractor. I think if we had a standard tractor we would not have half the trouble we have today. If they are starting to manufacture here, I would like to know if they will standardize a tractor for the future.

A. The big objective of the C.C.I.L. is to make machinery as modern and efficient as possible with an eye towards the future so that if new improvements come along they can be added to the tractor without to a large extent changing the main design of the tractor. That is as near as we can come to standardization from the start.

MR. FLETCHER: Is the C.C.I.L. in any sense a political organization?

A. It is a consumers' co-operative organization and devoid of any political background.

MR. MARLBURG: I would like to ask if you think there is any danger of a patronage dividend from the implement co-op coming under Dominion taxation the same as our wheat pool?

A. It would be in the same category at present.

Q. Is it the intention of your co-operative company that in the future you will endeavor

to get into the production line where we may get a great deal of benefit from your organization?

A. Yes, our newest and secondary plan contains that, both co-operative production and co-operative distribution.

MR. TROUTMAN: I would like to ask if we do come under this taxation system, could we not work or operate on a non profitable basis so we would not ever have to pay taxes? The wheat pool is trying to do that.

A. Of course if you have large reserves that can take you through a process like that it can be done, but we still have the protection of the Income Tax Act which definitely states that when 80% of our business is done with members and not over 20% with non-members, we do classify as a co-operative and are exempt from income taxation. There won't be any non-members in C.C.I.L. if we sell only to members.

MR. LOVELOCK: Is it the intention of the company to set up a manufacturing plant in Canada?

A. The most economical way of getting the machine direct into the farmers' hands is what we want — yes, definitely.

MR. BILYK: Our program now calls for nominations for the office of president, and I would move that the questioning of this gentleman cease.

MR. MELENKA: I second that.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor? Carried. Thank you, Mr. Peterson.

DELEGATE: I would like to move a vote of thanks to Mr. Peterson for his address and courteous answering of questions. (Applause).

MR. YOUNG: Nominations are now open for the office of President.

There were eight nominations for the office of President, but all withdrew except Jackson and McGowan.

MR. PETERSON: I nominate Mr. Jackson.

MR. KROWCHUK: I nominate Mr. McGowan.

MR. KRULL: Mr. Young.

MR. BYRNE: Mr. A. Macdonald.

MR. KOVACS: Henry Kelly.

MR. BILYK: Mr. Hawreluk.

MR. KRALUK: Mr. Logan.

MRS. BOSMAN: Mr. Russell.

MR. KRALUK: I move that nominations close.

MR. MAKRAWICK: I second that.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor of nominations closing? Carried.

MR. KELLY: I would not think about running against those good, old, reliable presidents we have had and I wish to withdraw.

MR. HAWRELAK: I think it a great honor to even be mentioned on this slate for president, but I regret that I must decline this nomination. The circumstances under which I presently farm,

do not permit me to devote as much time as this position requires to the work. I wish to thank you all for the privilege of appearing before you on this slate but express my regret. If you decide I could stand for a lesser nomination, it is up to you. In the meantime, thank you.

MR. MacDONALD: I wish to withdraw.

MR. RUSSELL: I wish to thank you for the honor but I don't feel that I have the ability to be president of this organization which may be a very vast organization in another year. I must decline the honor. However, thank you.

MR. LOGAN: I am very sorry to have to ask my nomination to be withdrawn. I want to make this clear though, that I am willing to do any job or go in any other position which you might require of me, but I have a very definite reason which I cannot discuss here why I cannot be your president, and therefore must ask you to let me withdraw.

MR. YOUNG: Ladies and gentlemen. There are now just three nominations left, and I am going to make a statement on behalf of myself. When I took over the chair here from Mr. McGowan I did so because I thought I would not be one who would be nominated here. I am going to ask your leave to withdraw my name for two reasons. The first is that my time is pretty thoroughly occupied in other things, and I would not consider I should attempt to run for this position in opposition to the men who are serving you at the present time. The other is that I am very new in this movement. Two years ago I walked into the convention held here and sat down for a couple of hours after we had lost out in the fight to amalgamate with the U. F. A. I sat here then for the first time. It would be rather too fast to suggest I be president in the course of two years. It is a great honor to have my name mentioned but I think it would be presumption on my part to stand against the other parties on the slate. So I am just going, with the best will in the world, and the best feeling towards the organization, to withdraw my name from the slate for the time being.

I take it that you wish to hear the other gentlemen who have been nominated, Mr. Jackson and Mr. McGowan. The ballots will be printed in the noon hour and you will vote at 2.00 o'clock.

Both Mr. Jackson and Mr. McGowan each gave a short speech of acceptance.

Address by Mr. Jackson

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. I appreciate very deeply the honor that has been bestowed on me this morning in being again nominated for president of the best farm organization in the Dominion of Canada.

It is an honor that I feel not at all worthy of. I appreciate it very deeply.

Since I have become connected with this organization a few years ago, I have done all I could to forward the interests of the organization. I have not done as much as I would like to have done in this body. We have not the time to devote to the work we should have.

Our organization has now come to the point where we are beginning to go places. Up to now we have been creeping — now we will begin to walk, I hope — in fact I am sure.

I am not here to appeal to you for your support for the position of president of this organization. What I want to appeal to you to do is to put in the person you think will serve the organization in the best interests of the farmers. If you decide to put me in I will do the best I know how.

I realize, of course, that our organization has come to such proportions now that I am not really qualified to carry out the office of president as it should be carried out. Our membership here is growing, and we have come now to the point where we have an impetus. Our organization is going to be one of the biggest in Canada within a very short time.

While I recognize the honor that has been done me, it is overshadowed by the terrific responsibility. Some of you may not realize the responsibility you are placing on your president.

I don't want to take up much of your time. I might say that Mr. McGowan has been with the organization a little longer than myself. I would like to refer back — I see a few faces I saw when we held our first convention of the United Farmers of Canada (Alberta Section). I remember what a puny organization that we were. The only thing we had that had any essential of success to it was enthusiasm and determination. We were very small in members and we were broke flat. I might say the only thing I recognized in that organization was that we had fight in us — we all had the spirit I like to see, and that is the spirit of determination to fight for what is right. I would like to see lots more of it.

We live in a democracy. We have been accused of disturbing the war effort. In a democracy the people must be free to express their opinions, wartime or no wartime, and wartime is the time we need criticisms of a constructive nature from the common people. We are paying for the war and should have a say in how it is run.

When we first began the papers didn't take much notice of us. You will notice today that particularly the weekly press of Alberta have been most encouraging and have given us considerable support because they recognize that if agriculture does not get a square deal nobody in

the economic set-up can get one. You will notice quite a change in the tempo of the press in connection with our organization. It is a healthful sign.

Your job this afternoon is to put in the man who will serve you best.

Thank you.

Address by Mr. McGowan

MR. MCGOWAN: Mr. Chairman, Mr. President, fellow farmer delegates, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me a great pleasure and I would like to thank my mover for this high honor. There is a great difference in the crowd I am addressing today and the one in the days when I was first nominated as president. We had about 60 delegates in the I.O.O.F. Hall. We tried to scatter them over the hall to make it look like a big crowd. I realized that day just as well the responsibility placed on my shoulders as I do today, and I visualized then such a crowd as I have before me today. I always felt that if we would run this organization on the best experience we had that there was no doubt we could make a successful organization. We had forty years experience to benefit by.

I am just a farmer the same as the rest of you, and in very poor circumstances too — I got hailed out this year 100%. I would like to let you know something of the start of this organization. When we started to build our constitution there were two clauses I had discussed with various farmers which I felt would be very beneficial in a farm organization. The important one was the non-political clause. That is because we cannot agree politically and there is no reason why we should. Your opinion has as much right as mine, and we are both right.

But why can't we agree economically and let us all go on together? I remember when discussing this clause we said we want an organization that everybody can join despite politics, religion and nationality, and I hope you people will bear that in mind at all times. That has been one clause I have fought for all the way through.

The other clause was the "bona fide farmer" one. Only farmers actually on farms can belong to this organization. Everybody else is organized — we can't belong to their organizations, so why should they have any say in ours, so that bona fide farmer clause was very important.

I never had a better bunch of directors and board to co-operate with than the first year of my presidency. We got along splendidly until we had one man on our executive that started to climb and to cause dissention, and he is not today a member of our organization. Last year when I was nominated to run for the presidency I felt dissention in the board and I felt for the

benefit of the organization the best thing I could do was drop down, because I am working for the cause and I have never let myself stand in the way of the organization. It always comes first and I have always tried to work it to that end. I explained to you last year I was wholly agreeable that as long as I was on the executive, it didn't matter whether I was 4th vice-president or president. I am not a religious man, but I did see great hopes of doing a lot of good with this organization in a Christian way, because there are so many injustices that need to be attended to. This organization is the business end of our farming. I have been through quite a lot of experience. I am a returned man and I have been called a crook because I could not pay my debts when I had my granary full of wheat, and I know many of you have been through the same experience. This kind of thing has to be attended to, and it is the business of our farm organization to do it.

When I took the presidency in the first place, I took it shortly after the war started. There was an idea in the country that we farmers should not organize. We would be bothering politics at Ottawa if we did. I say we would have been the biggest help to Ottawa they could have had if we had been organized. Churchill said if the farmers had not been organized in Great Britain when the war was on, they would have had to step in the middle of the war and organize them. We had a right to organize.

We had no future in view for our young people. I was raising a family of five children. I could not see any hope for these young people, and I felt that if I could be responsible in any way for getting better conditions for them, I was ready to do it. I have done that to the best of my ability. I have made my mistakes, but I have done the best I could.

Today we have these young men who could not get a job before the war because there was no money. Where are these young men today that they took off the train in Regina when the depression was on? These men are fighting for freedom and they call them our heroes. Is it not high time that we farmers of Canada took the responsibility on our shoulders to build a better system for them to come back to after this war? I know what I am talking about, and I will leave you to review what we got after the last war. It is high time we built an organization to run the business end of our farms.

I would like to mention the financial statement very briefly. I admit we had a bad-looking financial statement last year and the year before, and I hope you don't blame me for mismanagement, because we held conventions in Edmonton when we never had a cent and if we hadn't done it, we never would have had an or-

ganization — and I always tried to give leeway. There are points that come up that you can't carry out too strictly. My stand last year I have already explained. Organizations such as ours start as protest organizations. That is a small minority. But the time has arrived now when I realize we have got to build and consider reconstruction. We have to construct things along the lines we need at the present time.

Now in the matter of the three year term for president. I am wholly in agreement, because you see so many organizations today where the president gets in and stays and stays and he builds up a machine around him and you can't get him out and you can't get the machine out either. Let us benefit by the past experiences we have had and not get into that mistake again.

I am not going to plead for you to vote for me. I will just ask you to be broad-minded enough to vote for the best man for the benefit of the organization because that is the thing you should do. I have the time, and I like the work. So take that into consideration, and please bear in mind our non-political clause.

I don't think there is much more I have to say, and if you see fit to vote for me, I want to make one thing very clear — that I am willing to accept the position and do the best I can. A rumor came into this convention last year saying that I was only running because I was against a man withdrawing. That was started by the man I mentioned, who is not a member of this organization today. I leave it to you. If you elect me, I am here at your service and any time I am needed on duty. Thank you.

The resolution dealing with affiliation with the Trade Union movement was then voted upon and carried unanimously.

(Adjourn to afternoon).

Wednesday Afternoon Session

Immediately on resumption a resolution was presented from the Resolution Committee asking for a Standing Committee to deal with resolutions before the next Annual Convention. Three to be chosen from the floor and two appointed by the Board.

Messrs. Stimpfle, Wilson and Russell were elected from the floor.

At this stage Mr. Baron announced that Mr. Jackson was elected as President.

Nominations were then open for the election of four vice-presidents. Nineteen nominations were made before a motion that nominations be closed was carried. There were eight withdrawals and eleven names went before the Convention to be voted on. It was decided by the Convention

that each candidate should be allowed one minute to speak.

After listening to the candidates the delegates again took up resolutions, while the ballot papers were being distributed.

No. 198 on the order paper was amended to a "non delivery strike" instead of an "agricultural strike," and a sub-amendment was added stating that this Convention wished the matter be fully explored. The Resolution with amendments added was carried.

No. 98 requesting action by the Provincial and Dominion Governments to prevent the Hutterites from obtaining any more land for the duration of the war and for 10 years afterwards, was slightly amended and carried with one dissenting vote.

Wednesday Evening—Jan'y 26th, 1944

The voting for Vice-President resulted in the following being elected:

1st Vice-Pres. — C. O. McGowan

2nd Vice-Pres. — W. G. Logan

3rd Vice-Pres. — Mrs. Geddes

4th Vice-Pres. — Wm. Hawrelak, Jr.

A Banquet was held in the evening at 6:30, and after it was over several fraternal delegates brought greetings from the organizations they represented. Mr. John Barnett, Alberta Teachers' Association; Mr. Keith, Alberta Wheat Pool; Mr. Sears, United Grain Growers; Mr. Appleby of the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan Section; Mr. Russell Love of the Edmonton District Farmers Co-op, and Mr. E. W. Bruntsden, Secretary of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture spoke during the evening. Mr. Bruntsden mentioned that there are now 55 organizations affiliated with the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, and therefore when the Federation speaks it represents a considerable number of farmers. Mr. Craig gave a short talk on subscribing to the next War Loan and a picture was shown entitled "The Two Worlds."

Mr. Appleby, our guest speaker, is the President of our sister organization in Saskatchewan, "The United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan Section," and he pointed out how finance attempts to dominate the co-operatives. The farmers must unite and work together at least as strongly as the forces which are opposed to them are united, if they expect to have some say in the building of a new order. "I don't think there is one person in this hall who really believes the Government is going to step in and create this New Order. I believe that is completely out of the question. We are the people who must build our New Order. We must do it ourselves in every phase." He pointed out the need for having control of our political representatives because, he said, although we try to

elect the most honest men we can, and he intends to do everything good when he leaves for Ottawa yet when he gets there he just doesn't accomplish what he went there for. Why? Because of the financial interests behind the scenes. Just recently their reply to us was printed in the Bankers Magazine — they said, "Workers of the future will require fears of unemployment and poverty to ensure the necessary drive in this world of international competition."

Continuing, Mr. Appleby said, "You know, they try to scare us with that word inflation. In the 1930's you were eaten up with inflation. They inflated the dollar bill to such an extent you could not get anything for your goods and they ran it that way for about eight years until you were losing your farms. If they are going to be fair about it, the only thing you can do is to demand now that we have an inflationary price for the same period."

Mr. Russell Love gave an energetic speech on what he hoped would be accomplished by the commercial co-operatives and then the meeting adjourned until next morning.

Thursday, January 27th

MORNING SESSION

At 9:45 the delegates again took up resolutions and started off with No. 131 on the Order paper which was asking that a system of floor prices for all farm produce be set up immediately, and that a scale of Parity Prices be determined for Canadian Farm produce based on that already determined in the United States. This resolution had previously been printed in the Bulletin and was sent in by 24 locals and it carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 299 was finally tabled after being amended by striking out the last two lines.

The next resolution No. 162, was lost after being amended.

Nos. 161 and 165 were both carried, while No. 164 failed to get a mover.

No. 186 carried. No. 210 tabled. No. 211 was carried after the words "are told" were replaced with "know." No. 232 was lost and No. 8 was carried.

At this stage the Order of Business committee recommended that "Security of Tenure" be taken up, but after the Secretary had read the resolution, it was moved that it be tabled and other resolutions of less importance taken up because the Convention had decided to hear Mr. Hugh Allen of the Alberta Livestock Co-operative as soon as he arrived, and did not wish to interrupt the discussion of Security of Tenure, when it began. Therefore resolution No. 1 was introduced and carried and No. 78 was

being debated when Mr. Allen arrived and discussion was suspended.

Mr. Allen gave an outline of the new bacon price schedule and the Convention adjourned for dinner and resumed at 2:00 p. m.

Address by Mr. Allen

MR. ALLEN: Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen. I appreciate the opportunity of addressing your gathering, but first would like to extend the greetings and good wishes of the Alberta Livestock Co-operative to the Alberta Farmers' Union. We have had a fairly close contact with many of your members in the past in a business way and we hope these friendly relations will continue.

It had been arranged previously that one of our directors, Mr. Rod McCrimmon, who is also on the Advisory Board of the Dominion Meat Board should address you. Owing to a serious illness of one of the members of his family, he has not been able to come in to the city this morning. He gave a broadcast last night at a time that probably was not possible for you to hear it over C. J. C. A. dealing with certain increases in the bonus payments on hogs. With your permission I would like to read some of the extracts from that broadcast which he gave last night dealing with the question. Mr. McCrimmon from his close contact with the federal government officials has a better knowledge possibly than any other person in the province, and I regret that through circumstances beyond his control he has not been able to appear before you this morning and answer your questions and give you first hand information on what went on at Ottawa when the decisions were arrived at to pay the increased bonus on hogs in their present form.

I will just read certain parts of this that deal with the parts that you would probably be more interested in. Mr. McCrimmon had just returned from Ottawa after attending the Meat Board Conference as a member of the Advisory Council. He was appointed to take the place of the late Mr. Harrild of Namayo, and it has been a source of gratification to us that Mr. McCrimmon would represent the organized co-operative marketing associations in this province. To that degree the government have accorded recognition to the organized farmers movement.

Reads — "The prevailing price structure as it affects the producers supplying pork requirements to meet Great Britain's needs was thoroughly discussed at this conference in Ottawa the past week. There were 24 members representing the departments of Agriculture from the various provinces, advisers to the Food Board, the Meat Board, and their advisers, and while in the past we have been prone to criticize

the Government for the manner in which they have allotted or apportioned the monies, bonuses, and so on that were set aside for certain purposes when the final arrangements were clarified, any criticism of the bonus will, and should be levelled at your producer representatives, as they assumed the responsibilities at the request of the Meat Board chairman, Mr. Gordon Taggart."

I believe it was the proposal of the government officials that these bonuses would not be applicable till they had worked out a system of payment but Mr. McCrimmon insisted if they were going to pay the bonus it should start at once, and they stuck for it and it was put into effect last Monday. There is no question but that the time the bonus was put into effect was due to the farmers being represented there.

Reads further — "It was felt by the Eastern authorities that in order to save further confusion that these bonuses be withheld until final arrangements had been complete — before any bonuses should be paid. Through consent of the Packer representatives and by the **INSISTENCE** of your **REPRESENTATIVES** a tentative agreement was reached whereby the settlement sheets were completed. This made it possible for the **INCREASE** to be applied on Monay's kill this week."

I gather the thing you are mostly interested in are the figures on these increased bonuses. Probably the majority of you know what they are. The gist of the whole thing is that an additional \$3.00 is being paid on A. grade hogs and \$2.00 on B1. In the information I have been able to get since the announcement was made, it is not yet clear to us what will eventually be done with the \$1.00 premium that in the past the Packers have been paying. This \$1.00 will be continued according to one report we have.

If any of you ship hogs this week you will get a statement back showing \$4.00 on A's and \$2.00 on B1's, and the rest of the grades will be the same as in the past, but when final arrangements are made it is not certain yet what the disposition of the \$1.00 bonus will be. According to one report we have it may be continued as it is making a total bonus on A's of \$4.00. According to another report the \$1.00 will be wiped out and applied on the increase of the basic price of B1's. It will be applied in the B grades of hogs and you will get it back there. That would mean that it would be spread out to the benefit of more people than those who get all their hogs in the A. grade. We are not certain yet which course will be followed. But it is quite apparent that we will still continue to get the \$1.00 along with the additional \$3.00 and \$2.00.

On the other grades of hogs, as Mr. McCrimmon has indicated, they will cut out the C1, C2

and C3 and have simply one C grade and it will be the same with the D's and E's.

There is no question that with the additional incentive to produce an A hog the farmers will be much more careful about their weights. In the past with the \$1.00 premium and prices on the level, there have been many farmers figured out it was to their interests to produce a B3 hog. It is safe to say that most farmers did it that way but now with the much higher premium on the A's weighing will be much closer and it will be in our interest to keep closer tab on the shipping weight of hogs. On the lower grades, as we understand it, the price will be determined by the market. That is on sows, extra heavies and the other lower grades, it will be determined by the markets and it might quite possibly vary in the different packing centres across Canada according to the domestic requirements. The people who buy these off-grade hogs (and that is all that will be available as the A's and B's will be for export trade and the domestic trade will bid for off-grade hogs) will determine the price by the amount bid on them at the packing centres.

That is a brief outline of the situation as we see it now. It has to be qualified by the possibility that there may yet be changes in it before it goes into effect. Temporarily the packers are paying the increased bonus but within a month or six weeks, as soon as the regulations are qualified and the new statement forms are ready, you will be paid on an entirely different basis. That very briefly is a statement of the bonus as we know it at the present time.

I don't want to take up any more of your time. If there are any questions I can answer, I will be glad to do so.

MR. LOVELOCK: I am very much concerned about these off-grade hogs. I hope I never have any and am able to place my hogs in the A. and B1's, but I want to know who is going to set the price on these off-grade hogs. We as farmers have no way of setting a price on our commodities the same as the manufacturers have, and I am very much concerned about these off-grade hogs. You know what kind of a licking we get on grades all the time, and I would like to know who is going to set these prices.

MR. ALLEN: As we understand it the price will be set by the market demand. That is the packers and abattoirs who slaughter these hogs for domestic consumption will bid on them and the demand will set the price.

DELEGATE: Why just the A-1 grade and not A1, 2 and 3?

A. I take it your question is why don't the carcass grades that the farmer is paid for correspond with the grades of the Wiltshire which are exported overseas. I cannot answer that.

I don't think the A grades of Wiltshires are exactly the same. There are three grades of A's in the Wiltshire sides and each has three weights. A1 is 155 to 165 and A2 165 to 175, and so on. That term A.2 and A.3 is used for Wiltshire sides — you have to expect more or less of a livegrading on your dressed carcass in the packing plant that will hardly conform exactly to the very careful grading given to the finished product as it arrives overseas. There are very definite requirements. I doubt very much if it would be practical to grade in the carcasses in the plant into all the divisions the Wiltshire sides are graded in as they are sent overseas. It is a question with us whether B1's and A's show a fair average return. The difference in price obtained for these different qualities of Wiltshire sides is very small. I don't think you will ever get the carcass grade divided into all these divisions.

MR. HAWLEY: I want to ask if you don't think it is very unfortunate that the whole class of B hogs were not included in this bonus. I think the tendency will be to grade below B1 if they can.

DELEGATE: I wonder who is going to set the price on that heavy hog.

A. From now on your domestic requirements will be confined to those off-grade hogs and the price will be determined by the demand. That is up to the retail ceiling. That is practically the basis on which we have always sold meat. When you figure that the domestic demand will be confined to these grades it is apparent that the demand will be fairly strong. That price can only rise of course to the point where it meets the retail ceiling. I will answer the other question — of course you know that your organization as well as many other farm organizations pressed for a basic price of 20c a pound and the general idea was that if that price was placed on the B1 with the present premium, it would be satisfactory to most farmers. Apparently the government took the view that the quality of hogs was deteriorating and that we were sacrificing quality for our own financial advantage. The government's object at the present time is quite clearly to make the inducement for top grade hogs, so high that everyone will try for it. I look to see the time when you will see just as few B3 hogs coming in as you see B2's.

MR. HICKEY: I would like to ask where this \$3.00 is to come from — the government or the packing plant?

A. This bonus comes directly from the federal government. There has been some criticism as to the proposed form this bonus will take and the government are apparently not taking any chance of anyone wondering where it comes from because you are to be paid by a coupon attached

to your grader's statement. When it is finally put into effect you will be paid that way and you will have to take that with you to the bank and on that will be printed the fact that you are getting it directly from the dominion government.

DELEGATE: Is the \$2.00 bonus only on B1 hogs or also on B2 and B3 hogs?

A. The bonus is paid only on the B1 and the A.

MR. FUHR: Mr. Allen said we had nine different grades now. Have we nine different prices?

MR. ALLEN: There are some details of this scheme we are not clear on from the information from Ottawa. For example, I told you it is not clear where that \$1.00 packers' bonus will disappear to.

I cannot tell you definitely now.

MR. NELSON: Are these bonuses paid just from Monday of this week or do they commence from the beginning of the bacon contract?

A. They went into effect on the kill of Monday.

MR. WILSON: If our heavy hogs are to be bid for on the competitive market, is the government taking any steps to increase the amount of ration coupons to the consumers so they can buy up the pork?

A. So far as I know, no.

DELEGATE: I am interested to know where the \$3.00 cut goes to.

A. I don't know whether I can answer that. I always understood that when the packers paid the \$1.00 premium that they got that money from the cuts on the off-grades. This present premium of \$3.00 and \$2.00 is coming directly from the government and it does not go in that way.

MR. LOVELOCK: You are head of the Alberta Livestock Co-operative — are you satisfied with the government's setting of these bonuses and grades?

A. We are laboring under considerable difficulty in that we have not definite final information as to how this will be put into effect but there are some other proposals that we see will increase the difficulties of making settlement and we called a meeting of all the local co-operative livestock associations the night before last and we had quite a group in here and some of the Dominion livestock men were with them and we made two or three recommendations to Ottawa outlining our views and expressing the hope that the final arrangements would not be too cumbersome and increase the cost of making settlement. The dominion government is apparently making an earnest effort to be sure that this premium is passed back to the original producer and that it is not going to the middleman, but in some of the means they have taken to see that that is done, they have, I think, added cost to the peo-

ple making out settlement. We have tried to straighten that out with the dominion government and have made two or three suggestions to them.

MR. WEBBER: Can you tell us whether when this bacon arrives overseas the British people pay more for the A grade than they do for the B1?

A. All I can tell you is that there are over a dozen grades of Wiltshire sides paid for on a graduated scale. Presumably they are passed on to the retailer on somewhat the same basis. I take it your question really means is there the difference between the product of the A hog we sell and the B in price to the consumer corresponding to the difference in price here. I can not answer that question. As you know the government has been asked by farm organizations in the past to check the grading of carcasses as compared with the grading of Wiltshires, and a survey was made last year but no results were made public. So I don't know.

MR. YOUNG: If you look at your program you will find that at 2 o'clock we have some time set aside for a discussion on means of organization, and so on. We have also got on the agenda the discussion laid aside on the security of tenure and we also have another resolution here on another subject. What is your desire?

MR. FUHR: The hog situation is very important and we ought not to run over it roughshod.

MR. LOVELOCK: I would like to make a suggestion. I would like to know if it would be possible when discussing the resolution on the hog situation that we could take up some of the questions with Mr. Allen at that time.

CHAIRMAN: I think Mr. Allen said he could come for that. Now let us express our appreciation to him for coming here this morning. (Applause).

MR. MIHALCHUK: I move we adjourn for lunch. ADJOURNED.

Afternoon Session, January 27th

MR. RUSSELL: Here is our hog resolution. It is not on your order paper (No. 29 in our list).

"WHEREAS the present price of hogs which was put into effect Monday, January 24th, by the Federal Minister of Agriculture, is still in disparity with the cost of production, and

WHEREAS at a joint meeting of all farm organizations held at Red Deer last fall, under auspices of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, the agreement of price was \$20 per hundred,

BE IT RESOLVED that we demand an in-

crease to \$20 per hundred pounds dressed weight at all shipping points in Alberta."

MR. CHILDRESS: I move that resolution.

MR. HAWLY: I second that.

MR. CHILDRESS: I helped to draft that resolution. We went over our previous resolutions you had passed and found they were obsolete. On Monday last the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa brought in a schedule price list on all grades of hogs and after taking all these into consideration and consulting with Mr. Allen we find that they have met us about half way between the \$20 and what we got previously. It will average to about \$18 per cwt. on a dressed basis instead of our former demand of \$20. They eliminated two or three grades of hogs.

Grade A — 140-170 \$16.50 and \$3.00 bonus.

Grade B1, 145-175, \$15.85 and \$2.00 bonus.

Grade B2 125-134 \$15.10.

Grade B3 176-185 \$15.85.

Grade C1 135-175 \$14.85.

Grade C2 120-134 \$14.65.

Grade C3 186-205 \$14.30.

That is your proposed new schedule, and when you average it all up it brings the price to about \$18 per cwt, and at our joint meeting in the federation last summer we agreed at \$20. The price of grain has gone up since. I give you these figures for your information.

MR. HAWLY: I am of the opinion that this is about one of the biggest jokes ever put up to us because I believe the tendency is going to be now — the packers have one of the greatest weapons they have ever had — the tendency will be to grade our hogs below B1. We know that they are shipping bacon over to England from hogs grading B3, otherwise why are the British people kicking about getting fat bacon? I have all due respect for Mr. Hugh Allen. He is one of the most co-operative men in all Alberta, and I believe the men who got the agreement got the best they could get, but I don't believe it is good enough yet by any means. Just because a hog weighs one thing does not mean the return will be A. I am not afraid of B2 class but the B3 is dangerous.

DELEGATE: Is there anything against the law if the livestock association put their own grader in there?

MR. ALLEN: I don't know — it would be a pretty expensive proposition for any selling agency to put in a check grader even if it were allowed. Grading carcasses is the function of the dominion government and they are the official body and I question whether they would allow anything along that line to be done. We have frequently protested variations in grading and have secured at certain times a review of the grading of certain shipments. Those carcasses are hung in the cooler for a certain length of time before they are cut up and sometimes

our representative and the government grader go over certain carcasses in question. I question the practicability of a second grader checking the government grader. I think we have to get the standard of work performed by the government grader to the point where it is competently done. I don't think there will be as much chance for disagreement on grade in the future as there has been in the past. One thing it has been generally understood in the past that this premium of \$1.00 on selects we have been getting is really derived from the amount collected in cuts and off-grade hogs. It would seem that variations in grading probably occur when the graders realize that there is not enough in cuts coming in to pay the premiums or that there is too much. I never thought the present system was a satisfactory one with the packer paying that premium. It seemed to me it was the function of the government. I think that the present system where the premium is paid by the government and having no relation to off-grade hogs will mean that the grading situation will be better for the grader and more satisfactory to the producer.

DELEGATE: Was there much variation in the grade of the hogs when you people went over and reviewed some of them?

A. They find them right on the line — naturally the hog that is in dispute is on the line.

DELEGATE: The resolution as I understand it, is asking for \$20 for Grade A hogs. We passed a resolution earlier to get the government to elect a commission to give us parity prices. I think myself the resolution should be amended in accordance with the resolution we passed this morning.

MR. LOVELOCK: I think we all know the conditions that prevail. I am a co-operator but this fall the plants were overcrowded with hogs and a large proportion of the co-operative hogs were being shipped out from here at the cost of the shipper.

MR. ALLEN: At the present time Edmonton is the collecting point for the greatest volume of hogs ever marketed in Canada at any time. There was never a time when the packing plants of Alberta could handle the volume of hogs being delivered at the present time. A very considerable percentage have had therefore to be shipped east for processing. Normally this movement only goes as far as Saskatchewan, Regina and Winnipeg but they are operating to capacity and the result is the overflow has had to go to Ontario and the price there does not even with the government bonus of 50c a hundred to offset the shrink and loss that accompanies shipment to Eastern Canada. Thus Alberta producers have had to take 20c to 50c a hundred less than those whose hogs were processed in Edmonton and Calgary. We have urged the government time

and again that if they urged us to increase our hog production and then they failed to have processing facilities equal to handling that production the government was under obligation to pay the producer on an equal basis. They met us half way and put the 50c bonus on top of the Ontario price. That does not, however, offset the shrink and loss. The plants here have handled the great bulk of our shipments however. It is only a small part of our shipments that have had to go through to Ontario and I feel safe in saying that the proportion of co-op hogs that have gone to Ontario is not greater than the percentage of non-co-op hogs that have gone through. The packing plants were closing their gates frequently and were turning away old customers.

MR. LOVELOCK: I was trying to point out that anyone who delivered direct to the plants or agents collecting for the plants, had his hogs paid and settled for without any of this freight deduction, but the men shipping co-operatively had to have part of his stuff and perhaps all of it shipped east.

MR. ALLEN: It was not only the co-operative shippers who were turned away. When the plants closed their gates they closed them to everybody. If they shipped east they almost invariably took a loss.

DELEGATE: I just wonder — I took in a load of hogs into the city and the plants were all closed up. I took my hogs to the stock yards and unloaded them at the co-operative and when I got the returns I could see they were shipped east to get dressed. I just wonder whether all these hogs were getting the same treatment in the stock yards.

MR. ALLEN: As far as we know the other firms on the stockyard were in the same position as we were, that the plants were not buying on the stock yard and the other firms found markets as we did in Eastern Canada or at the Coast.

MR. BURBRIDGE: Is there insurance on hogs when they are shipped and if so, how is that insurance paid if there is a hog that dies in transportation?

MR. ALLEN: At the present time there are very few if any shipping agencies who take out transit insurance. It is very high. Up to the present we have not covered them with transit insurance. The losses are covered out of the proceeds of the shipment.

MR. KLEPARCHUK: I want to ask Mr. Allen how this \$20 will work in with the parity prices.

MR. ALLEN: Parity price has been discussed on a different basis. Right across Canada there seemed to be a feeling among the farmers that \$20 was the price that should be insisted upon. I don't know how closely it was related to parity.

MR. EYBEN: It seems to me our resolution is incomplete. We have been informed that the lower grade of hogs is left open for domestic markets to set whatever price they will. We should set a scale ourselves for these lower grade hogs.

DELEGATES: Question, question.

CHAIRMAN: Are you in favor of the resolution? CARRIED.

The proposal for Security of Tenure was then taken up and the Convention re-affirmed the resolution which was passed at the previous Provincial Convention in Feb. 1943, Resolution No. 246, and also passed a resolution submitted by the Board of Directors by which the Convention empowered the Board to take the necessary steps to accomplish this objective.

At this stage the Convention voted a large majority to extend the Convention until Friday noon.

Discussion was then continued on Resolution No. 78 which had been suspended and it was amended to make the school holidays from July 15 to October 1, and carried.

The following resolution on Co-operative Hail Insurance from District No. 10 was read out and finally carried.

28. CO-OPERATIVE HAIL INSURANCE

"WHEREAS under the present Hail Insurance system the rate in some districts being as high as 12% with 20% deductible, making it prohibitive for farmers in these districts to carry hail protection.

"THEREFORE be it resolved that the Provincial Government take immediate steps to implement a co-operative hail insurance scheme whereby all lands sown to grain be automatically insured, premiums to be collected at an equitable rate covering losses and actual cost of maintenance.

"LOSSES to be paid on a similar basis as the plan now in operation. That is, one half in November, remainder to be paid the following March."

The delegates then again took up hog prices and reaffirmed their demand for a price of \$20 per 100 at all shipping points in Alberta.

Membership buttons were then dealt with, and resolution No. 222 was amended so that the size of the buttons should not exceed a big 5c piece, and the purchase and distribution was left to the executive.

A discussion on compulsory membership resulted in No. 224 being tabled. No. 219 was carried and No. 220 was lost.

At this stage the Convention voted by a large disposition of the money in the Pool Rate Fund be reconsidered and instead of \$1.25 being returned to each delegate, the fund be left to be

used for organization purposes. This brought a protest as being unfair to some delegates who had paid their own expenses and the matter was tabled.

ORGANIZATION DISCUSSION

The meeting was then thrown open for a general discussion on the organization work and many opinions were expressed.

Suggestions were made that the President be put on a part time salary and also that a plan of organization be put into operation in which everyone could have a share. A motion was finally made that the Executive approach all municipalities and ask for a grant of \$50.00 from an average municipality and the larger ones in proportion. This was moved by Olsen and Bevington but it was tabled and the Convention adjourned till 8:00 p. m.

Evening Meeting

The first business of the evening was a fraternal greeting from the School Trustees Association conveyed by their president, Mr. Henry Spencer. He gave the information that although Alberta is third on the list in regard to paying the highest salaries yet she is sixth in order of grants.

The delegates again considered the Pool Rate question and finally decided that the Report of the Committee be adopted and that the sum of \$1.25 be refunded to the delegates.

Asking that the Old Age Pensions be provided at 60 years as a primary factor in solving the Unemployment problem after the War, was approved by the delegates and then —

No. 36 asking for the lifting of the embargo on sows and heavy hogs to the United States was also passed.

No. 13 dealt with finance and demanded that control of all finance in Canada be taken over by the Dominion Government. This was carried.

No. 62 asking that a farmer's income tax be based on a period of four years, was tabled, but another resolution was read. "Resolved that payments on any debts contracted before the war shall be allowable as a deduction from the incomes of all persons making payments on debts" was carried.

No. 50 declaring against the practice of bonus and subsidy payments and asking for a Parity Price, was carried unanimously.

A long discussion took place on whether the membership fee should be raised to \$1.50 so that \$1.00 could go to the Head Office and 50c to the District and it was finally lost.

No. 228 asking for compulsory membership was tabled.

No. 41 dealing with amalgamation with the
(Continued on page 37)

Women Delegates at Annual Alberta Farmers' Union Convention



Above are shown the 19 women delegates to the annual convention of the Alberta Farmers' Union, recently held at the Masonic Temple, Edmonton. Left to right, they are: Front

row, Mrs. L. S. Willay, Mrs. R. N. Russell, Mrs. G. Bulman, Mrs. J. Geddes, Winterburn, Mrs. C. E. Jones, Mrs. E. MacAulay, Mrs. Fred Burkard, Mrs. P. Schaefer. Second row: Mrs.

I. Bausman, Mrs. B. Horten, Mrs. W. J. Landry, Mrs. G. D. Minion, Mrs. C. M. Rudd, Mrs. H. O. Bly, Mrs. C. McGowan, Mrs. J. Miles. Back row: Mrs. G. H. Lightfoot, Mrs. C. Monkman, Mrs. L. V. Nicholson.

EVENING MEETING**(Continued from page 35)**

United Farmers of Alberta and recommending that co-ordinating committees meet at least once a year, was carried.

No. 18 asking that elevators that are filled up be given the preference for cars, was carried unanimously and,

No. 188 demanding that Parity Prices be established or else the Price Ceiling Policy be abandoned, received similar endorsement, and the meeting adjourned till 9 a. m. Friday morning.

Friday, January 28th

Friday saw the opening of the last morning of the Convention and the first resolution was an important one and dealt with Flag Saluting by school children as follows-

"That whereas the recent action of the Edmonton Board of School Trustees in expelling some students because they refused to comply with what under compulsion, can only be described as a formalism, and

"Whereas the Board only yesterday reaffirmed their attitude and thus will continue to deny to these children the opportunity of fellowship with other children during their impressionable years which will be apt to create a feeling of bitterness within them,

"Be It Resolved that the delegates of the Alberta Farmers' Union in annual convention assembled do deplore such an attitude in what should be an enlightened body of responsible public servants and we urge them to reconsider their decision in favor of one more in accordance with enlightenment, toleration and education."

This is being sent to the Provincial Minister of Education with the request that all Alberta School Boards be deprived of such power in future, by action of the Legislature.

No. 124 asked for the resignation of Jas. G. Gardiner as Minister of Education and was carried.

No. 17 advocated the encouragement of Chemurgy and setting up plants for the manufacture of rubber, carried.

Nos. 30 and 31 again asking for the restoration of all Alberta to Mountain Standard Time, carried.

No. 39 asking for the T. B. Test to be applied on all cattle and the disposing of all affected cattle and that compensation be paid, was tabled for more information.

Nos. 25 and 26 asking that the Executive of the Alberta Farmers' Union investigate the possibilities of establishing co-op packing plants in Alberta, carried.

No. 52 resolved that in the opinion of this Convention the membership organizations, the Alberta Farmers' Union and the United Farm-

ers of Alberta should have a larger voice in determining the policies of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture, was carried.

It was suggested the constitution of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture should be re-drafted so that farmer membership organizations had equal representation on the Board with commercial organizations. Mr. Jackson mentioned the action taken by the Alberta Federation of Agriculture at Lethbridge Convention in asking for an initial payment on wheat of \$1.00 instead of \$1.25.

Mr. Stimpfle said that if we could not change the set-up, let's get out.

The Order of Business Committee now recommended that some recommendation from District No. 9 be read to the Convention. Mr. Olsen read this and it was accepted.

Delegates then went into the last lap of resolutions and took up No. 172. This was carried. Also No. 129 carried; No. 15 carried; No. 154 carried; No. 159 carried.

No. 58 not on the Order Paper, was read out and as it required a change in the constitution, was declared out of order as no Notice of Motion had been given.

No. 32 asking for removal of Duty between Canada and United States, was carried.

A letter from the Packing House Employees Union was read by the Secretary and the delegates applauded.

No. 69 asking that shells be made available to farmers, carried.

A resolution was then moved from the floor of the Convention by Carl Stimpfle that in future the delegates be seated in groups, according to the Districts from which they come, in order to facilitate the work of the chairman, but after considerable discussion was lost.

No. 23 asking that the savings of the co-operatives be not subject to taxation, was carried.

No. 103 carried as amended "any district where required."

No. 37 was carried. The word "old" being struck out.

MR. BEVINGTON: Would it be in order now to introduce a resolution not on your printed sheet? Here it is.

CHAIRMAN: Yes, that is in order. I will read this resolution (our No. 64).

"WHEREAS the people of Canada are entitled to demand that the financial system should be run equally for the benefit of all the people of Canada, and

WHEREAS this has never yet been done; THEREFORE WE demand that at the decennial revision of the Bank Act the interests of the people demand that any co-operative organ-

ization which mobilizes real wealth shall have the right to hypothecate the documentary title to the real wealth of its patrons with the Bank of Canada and shall receive, in exchange, at cost, the value in money represented by this produce at the existing market prices."

MR. BEVINGTON: I move that resolution.

MR. CHILDRESS: I second that.

MR. BEVINGTON: Yesterday you passed a resolution in regard to making the issue of money available to the people for the service of the people at cost. This is something that is directly along the same lines, but if you will take notice of the wording, the object is to make the securities held by your co-operative institutions which may be grain, livestock, real estate or anything else, available for their use by directly hypothecating them to the Bank of Canada and getting the money issued there at the cost of giving you that service. I don't think there is any need to say very much about it. That is the object of the resolution. Day before yesterday you heard a very fine address by Mr. Love on the question of co-operation. The impression he would have left us is that by developing your co-operatives you can solve all of your economic problems. I am not taking exception or denying one word he said. Everything he said was true. He showed you dividends he got as a result of co-operating. I can show you the same type of dividends. Those things are perfectly all right, but they don't go far enough. Those institutions are subject to paying tribute to the financial powers for the use of credit. If you adopt this kind of resolution and can get it into effect your co-operative would then be in the position your private banks are today. They are filled with securities and can take them to the Bank of Canada and get use of the Bank of Canada notes, which they get at a low rate of interest, and then bring them out here and loan them at 6 or 7% to your co-operatives. If the security they have is good enough for them to go and get money at low interest rates, then that same security is good enough when held by a co-op to go to your bank and get your money.

MR. NICHOLS: I think perhaps this is one of the most important subjects we will ever have to discuss and the question has occurred to me from time to time as to why we have not attained the success through our co-operatives that we imagined would occur when we formed them. As one of the first signers of the Wheat Pool contract I had very high hopes that there would come a day when we farmers would be in the position to say what we wanted for our wheat and getting it. We find, however, that although we have formed not only co-operatives with regard to grain but also in regard to other things, we still are at the mercy of the financial insti-

tutions to whom we have to go and beg for a loan at their price, which is essential for us to carry on our businesses.

As one fact that may give you some thought I should like to point out that the total dividends paid out by your Wheat Pool since it has been in operation is \$2,400,000. In that same period of time they paid out 30 million in interest, or 14 times as much. Under your present method of co-operation you receive one dollar and then you have to pay out \$14.00. I don't see much hope as long as such a principle as that is in effect. This is not a condemnation of any co-operative. It is a sincere attempt to make them far more effective and attain that goal we had in view when we began. If we don't have that goal in view I say the results we have obtained up to now do not justify the sacrifice that has been put into them.

One other thing — the price or parity price that we are making as our watchword is the thing we really want. You can divide the period centering on the year 1932 into two parts, the 7 years previous to 1932 and the 7 years afterwards. In one of these periods you received 2½ billion dollars more than you did in the other period. During both these periods the means of pooling your wheat and other produce was in effect, but we didn't have what this resolution asks in effect. Had we had, the shock would have been ameliorated to the extent of 14 times greater benefits than what we did get.

MR. CHILDRESS: I agree with all Mr. Bevington and Mr. Nichols said, and I would go even further. The private bank charter is up for revision this year — it is a ten year charter which carries behind it the entire strength and force of the Dominion Government—and I would demand that that bank charter not be extended, and that this system be put into effect through our dominion bank.

MR. KLEPARCHUK: I move that amendment to this resolution that the bank charter be not renewed and that the Dominion Government carry on the banking system through the Bank of Canada.

MR. CEBULIAK: I second that.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor of the amendment to the resolution? CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN: All in favor of the resolution as amended? CARRIED.

It was getting near the end now and a motion was made to turn over the remainder of the business to the Board of Directors. However this motion was tabled on motion of Campbell and Nicholson to give an opportunity to Mrs. Geddes to make a few remarks on the desirability of having our laws worded in simple language so that all could understand them.

After this a motion of Thanks to the Citizens of Edmonton for their hospitality was fol-

lowed by Thanks to the Press and then Thanks to all, Officials, Secretary and Office Staff.

And the motion to adjourn by Fink and Warawa brought to a close the biggest Convention we have yet held with singing —

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Notice

Recommendations from Conference of all District Officials held in Edmonton.

1. We recommend that the Executive and Secretary of all twelve districts have distinguishing colors of ribbons so as to be easily recognized as such.

2. That the Provincial Executive arrange the best possible means, whereby the broadcasts of the 12 districts may be equally distributed among the various districts according to the radio facilities available in their respective districts.

3. That in future the bills sent out from the Head Office have special invitation to the ladies and juniors to attend all meetings included therein.

4. Resolution attached pertaining to fraternal delegates that cost too much time and money and have no direct agricultural bearing.

5. That proposed dates of district conventions be submitted to head office by the district as soon as possible.

6. That any capable organizer authorized by the district executive be remunerated for his services.

(Sgd.) Mary B. Pharis, Secretary.
Henry Kelley,

Chairman of District Conference.

This was read at the last session of the Alberta Farmers' Union Provincial Convention.

RE FRATERNAL DELEGATES

WHEREAS a great deal of time has been taken up at this convention by outside speakers on subjects not directly concerned with this organization

AND WHEREAS the time and money that farmer delegates can spend at these conventions is very limited

AND WHEREAS there is not sufficient time to deal thoroughly with all the business and resolutions of this Convention in the time we have,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in future Conventions we permit only delegates and officials and those considered by the Executive Committee to be making a direct contribution to the organization, to speak and that a definite time limit be put on all these speakers in accordance with the importance of the topic or its relationship to agriculture.

Sgd. A. D. Olsen, Homeglen.
Vice-President.

COPY OF LETTER RECEIVED BY US

Buford, Alberta,
January 18th, 1944.

A. F. U.,
EDMONTON.

Dear Sirs:-

Enclosed please find money order for \$5.00. Please send me the A.F.U. Bulletin for one year and keep the change to help defray expenses. I feel it is the least I can do. Wishing you every success and trust there are some things I can do to help,

Yours truly,
(Sgd) P. E. Kvarnberg.

Bashaw, Alberta, December 21st, 1943

Mr. Nichols,

I am sending in the last of our application for membership cards. One of our Directors, Mr. Tom Dezauyer and myself have taken off a few days and canvassed the most of our district. But there are a few left yet and they are quite hard to crack. So we will take one more chance after a while. We always give them time to think it over and the next time we go to see them they sign up quite easy as they see it is almost necessary to belong to the A. F. U.

I don't know yet how many applications I will be mailing tomorrow as I have to see Mr. Dezauyer and see how many he has got. I hope about twenty as that is what I have. One Junior member, 18 Senior members. Will mail others in a few days.

Yours truly,
Wm. Fuerst,
Secretary Manfred Local No. 496,
Bashaw, Alberta.

TRACTOR FOR SALE

Wallis Tractor 20-30; in good condition, overhauled last fall. Contact Mr. Dan Nahirny, Nes-tow. Price \$550.00 cash.

Purebred Registered Yorkshires

Weanlings, bred and open gilts, boars. The kind that will grade "A" and bring you a premium. The best is none too good for a Union member. Come and make your own selection.

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Radio Fund Donations

January 4th. Mr. J. McLaughlin, Personal Donation	\$2.50
January 5th. Mr. M. Chomik, Musidora, Sect'y Chornik Local No. 376	10.00
January 5th. Mr. G. R. Wilson, Grimshaw, Sec'y Three Lakes Local No. 46750
January 7th. Mr. Frank Smith, Brosseau, Sec'y Brosseau-Foisys Local No. 15	2.00
January 8th. Mr. S. W. Mendus	5.00
January 8th. Mr. J. F. Low, Prairie Echo, Secretary Local No. 257	5.00
January 10th. Mr. J. W. Humphries, Drumheller, Sec'y Local No. 374	4.90
January 11th. Mr. J. P. Minette, Strome, Sec'y Strome Local No. 10839
January 11th. Mr. W. D. Mastaller, Carvel, Sec'y Carvel Local No. 278	5.50
January 13th. Mr. James Oswald, Leduc, Sec'y Leduc Local No. 352	10.00
January 13th. Mr. T. Connelly, Huggett, Secretary Local No. 375	7.50
January 17th. Mr. J. F. Low, Prairie Echo, Sec'y Local No. 257	2.75
January 17th. Mr. M. Dmytriw, Stubno, Sec'y Stubno Local No. 54	20.00
January 21st. Mr. J. F. Low, Prairie Echo, Secretary Local No. 25750
January 21st. Mrs. G. M. Gage, F. Mission Court, Edmonton, personal	1.50
January 21st. Mr. J. F. Low, Prairie Echo, Secretary Local No. 257	2.00
January 26th. Mr. Sid. Jolliffe, Busby, Sec'y Busby Local No. 149	2.00
January 26th. Mr. Mike Pillott, Smoky Lake, Ruthenia Local No. 432	5.00
January 26th. Mr. L. D. Niehaus, Strome, District No. 8	5.00
January 27th. Mr. R. Potts, Meanook, Secretary Local No. 159	3.00
January 27th. Mr. D. Rollings, Meanook, Personal Donation	1.00
January 27th. Mr. M. Locher, Meanook, Personal Donation	1.00
January 28th. Mr. Nick Polishuk, Peno, Sec'y Peno Local No. 45	10.00
January 28th. Mr. H. E. Eyben, Vermilion, Autumn Leaf Local No. 506	1.25
January 28th. Mr. J. T. Sand, Edberg, Edberg Local No. 211	1.25
January 28th. Mr. Archie Olstad, Edberg, Edberg Local No. 211	1.25
January 28th. Mr. M. C. Jarvis, Bashaw, Bashaw Local No. 558	1.25
January 31st. Mr. J. F. Pilcher, Bashaw	1.25

January 31st. Mr. Harry Eaton, Calmar, Michigan Centre Local No. 457	6.00
February 1st. Mr. R. Teasdale, Eyremore, Sec'y Badger Lake Local No. 521	5.00
February 1st. Western Canada Subscription Agencies, Edmonton	10.00
February 2nd. Mr. R. N. Russell, Atha- basca, Personal Donation	3.00

UKRAINIAN PAPER DONATIONS

November 22nd. Mr. N. Baron, Bonny- ville, Iron River Local No. 184	22.00
December 29th. Mr. S. W. Starchuk, Smoky Lake, Sec'y Local No. 350	9.50
December 29th. Mr. J. J. Kawyuk, Whitford, Sec'y Local No. 5	5.00
January 20th. Mr. Peter Pawliuk, Ispas, Secretary Local No. 6	5.00
January 31st. Mr. A. Platz, Weasel Creek	1.25
Jan'y 31st. Mr. Jim Ziniuk, Weasel Creek	1.25

January 17th, 1944.

Please announce on your broadcast that Stanislaw Local No. 62 have 56 members in which women are included, and this Local has \$95.00 in cash already which they raised from two social gatherings in 1944.

Secretary John Pulypchan.

We have a Bulletin subscription paid by Mr. Charles Waters and we have not the address. Will Mr. Waters please send us his address so that we can send the Bulletin to him.

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